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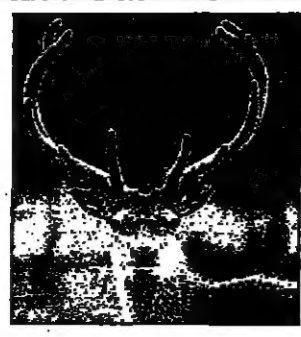
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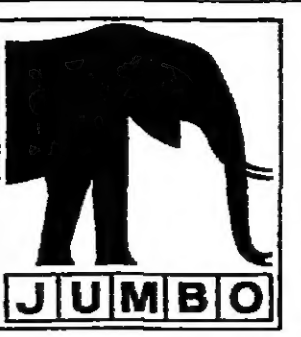
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Guns continue to devastate Sarajevo Bosnia deal has failed to set peace deadline

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE London agreements reached by the warring parties in former Yugoslavia were promptly undermined yesterday, when British and United Nations officials admitted that there was no starting time in sight for the 96-hour deadline by which the Bosnian Serbs agreed to place their heavy weapons under UN control.

Yesterday the guns continued to rain death and destruction on Sarajevo, killing at least three people. Cyrus Vance, the UN envoy who will co-chair with Lord Owen the follow-up standing conference in Geneva, said it would be "folly" to set any deadline for an end to the fighting. "We want to see it stop as soon as we can."

He announced that Marack Gouling, UN under-secretary-general for peace-

keeping operations, will fly to Bosnia to begin locating the weapons. But until he returned and was able to deploy UN forces, no start could be made to the rounding up of guns and mortar.

Mr Vance also expressed doubts whether Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, had the strength and authority to carry out his commitments. "We have to test it. I can only hope and pray that he will have the authority."

In Sarajevo, a mortar shell hit the presidency building as officials expressed bitterness at the outcome of the talks. Stjepan Kijacic, a member of the presidency, said the conference was a "catastrophe". Muslim leaders also denounced international diplomacy for supporting cantonisation, which they said would seal the country's division.

Leaders of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) said Serbs and Bosnians showed no wish to reach a peaceful settlement. General Hosen Ali Abd El Razik, the Egyptian Unprofor commander, said: "Shelling the city is not a good sign for peace." He thought "both sides want to send a message to the London conference that they don't want to concentrate their heavy weapons".

In London, foreign and defence ministers of the nine-nation Western European Union said they were ready to help the United Nations operation in former Yugoslavia with military, logistical and financial support. They also said they were ready to tighten sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro in the Adriatic and on the Danube. But beyond offering technical assistance to the governments of states along the Danube, they did not promise any new measures to prevent sanctions-breaking.

Independent schools dominate A-levels

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE independent sector dominates the comparison of state and private schools' A-level results which appears in *The Times* today. Only five state schools figure in the top 100 places.

Westminster School leads a table of 366 schools and sixth-form colleges. Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, emerges as the top state school 40 places later, ahead of such famous names as Harrow, Charterhouse and Rugby.

Grammar schools accounted for 11 of the 95 state schools in the league table. Grant-maintained schools filled 23 of the places, but none of the top 100. Haslemere Boys' High School, in Barnet, north London, was the top comprehensive. The ranking provides relief for St Paul's Girls' School, in Hammersmith, west London, which has been at the centre of controversy since the resignation of its headmistress earlier this month. This year's results again make it the leading girls' school.

David Summerscale, Westminster's headmaster, insisted that his 600-strong school, which has a mixed sixth form, was not an "academic hot-house". He said: "The pupils have done as well as they have without feeling, every hour of every day, that they have exams pushed down their throats." The gulf between

state and private schools at the top of the league table continues throughout the survey. The overall pass rate in the top three A-level grades was 46.4 per cent, but the independent sector's own results, more than 500 of which were published for the first time yesterday, show that two-thirds of subject entries reached the score commonly regarded as a passport to university.

Ann Taylor, Labour's spokeswoman on education, said that the contrast between the sectors reflected the government's treatment of state education. "I find all league tables invidious, but this just demonstrates the importance of class sizes and the resources available to independent schools. If the government wants to produce the same results in state schools, it must give them more resources."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Conservative education minister, said that only more selective schools could improve the position of state schools. "In the past, a lot of state grammar schools would have been near the top. The whole role of public schools has changed in the past 30 years from providing social cachet to delivering the A-level."

A-level league, page 5
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Leading article, page 13

At present WEU and Nato ships in the Adriatic are monitoring compliance with UN sanctions without authority to stop ships. The meeting yesterday looked at the option of a full naval blockade.

The Italians, currently representing the WEU presidency, said the WEU would help the UN forces monitor heavy weapons in Bosnia, and individual nations had promised to contribute more troops. But they gave no figures.

Several delegations to the London conference expressed dismay yesterday that there was no threat of military intervention, if the Serbs or anyone else broke the agreements. The Turkish foreign minister, Hikmet Cetin, said it was the last chance for a peaceful settlement; if it did not lead to a swift outcome there was no alternative to military intervention. The Dutch and the French also suggested that force might eventually be needed.

Arguments among the delegations from former Yugoslavia continued yesterday over the documents presented by John Major and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general. Milan Panic, the prime minister of rump Yugoslavia, said he would demand the resignation of Slobodan Milosevic if the Serbian president did not comply with his peace proposals for Bosnia.

Mr Panic did most of the talking for the Serbian delegation in London. But they almost walked out on Thurs

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A pillar of fire rises at Kabul airport around the nose of a Russian Ilyushin-76 transport plane, one of three which flew yesterday to evacuate Russian embassy staff from the beleaguered city.

One of 15 rockets fired by the fundamentalist rebels led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar hit the tarmac near the plane, and flaming aviation fuel flowed across the runway as Russian commandos and truck drivers dashed to safety.

Four Russian soldiers, part of the security contingent that came in on the planes, were badly burnt and two were admitted to Kabul's military hospital. Sixty-eight diplomats, including the ambassador, Yevgeny Ostrovnikov, were stranded in Kabul by the destruction of the Ilyushin, but the two others were able to fly out more than 100 embassy staff to Moscow.

The evacuation had been planned to coincide with a Pakistan-proposed ceasefire that never materialised as rockets fired by Hezb-i-Islami rebels smashed into the city and airport throughout the day. The Hezb attack on the airport began at dawn, targeting both ends of the runway, while rockets struck other areas, including Bala Hissar fort. The 68 members of the Russian mission left behind spent the morning in an airport bunker.

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Europe's finance chiefs reject currency realignment

By COLIN NARBROUGH IN LONDON AND TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community governments yesterday rejected any realignment of the currencies in the European exchange-rate mechanism in a statement issued at Norman Lamont's request in an attempt to reduce the severe pressures that have built up in the grid.

The announcement, issued by the Community's monetary committee after the European market closed, brought a measure of stability to a week of turbulence in the foreign exchange markets and reduced the threat of early interest rate rises.

The Bank of England succeeded on Wednesday in stabilising the pound with large-scale intervention, but other central banks — most prominently Italy — have

been forced to prop up their currencies throughout the week. The strength of mark, a reflection of Germany's tight monetary policy, has been the main cause of tension. The lira was last night pinned to its absolute ERM floor. The pound ended the week around a pence from its lower limit of DM2.7780 at DM2.7895, down a fraction on the day.

Mr Lamont, who requested the statement after telephoning his counterparts and central bankers across Europe, welcomed it as "clear and unequivocal", saying it demonstrated the willingness of Britain's partners to "co-operate intensively to maintain stability in the financial markets".

Commission sources said

the statement could be construed as a cynical attempt by Mr Lamont to use the EC as a smokescreen for the government's economic policies, but Treasury officials insisted the announcement had been carefully agreed between all capitals. A French opinion poll to be published in *Le Parisien* today estimated the "no" vote to enacting the Maastricht treaty as 53 per cent. It was the third this week to indicate that the French referendum would reject Maastricht and followed three others which pointed to only a narrow acceptance. Foreign exchange dealers believe a "no" vote would produce further strains.

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Shipwrecked gold gives a lifeline to Lloyd's

By BEN MACINTYRE

LOYD'S of London has found a saviour: a \$1 billion creak of gold buried in the mud and silt off the coast of South Carolina.

As insurance agents count their losses from Hurricane Andrew, an American court has ruled that a group of insurance companies — including Lloyd's — which paid out on a similar hurricane 145 years ago should get a share of the golden cargo that went down with the *SS Central America*.

Many of the 580 passengers on board the ship, which was sailing from Panama to New York, were miners returning home with their booty from the California gold rush. Four hundred and twenty-five perished when the hurricane struck on September 12, 1857, and the ship went down with at least three tons of

gold coins and gold bricks in her hold. Besides the miners' gold, the ship was also carrying gold from California banks to New York in an effort to calm the financial panic of 1857.

The 16 companies that had underwritten the vessel and its contents (including Lloyd's and five other British firms) paid the insurance claims promptly. The speed with which they did so is widely believed to have staved off an economic collapse.

Ten years ago, a team of treasure hunters, the Columbus-America Discovery Group, began searching the seabed 160 miles off Charleston, South Carolina, and in 1987 they found the wreck 8,000ft below the surface using robots and high-technology salvage equipment. The team has already extracted more than a ton of gold, including one brick weighing 62lb and thousands of gold pieces. The divers say that it may take

several more years before all the cargo, worth an estimated \$1 billion (£507 million) is brought to the surface.

On Thursday a federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, said that a portion of the treasure trove must go to the insurance companies, which filed for a share after sifting through ancient newspaper clippings and company records. A district court had ruled in 1990 that all proceeds from the discovery should go to the salvagers, who have argued that the insurance companies effectively forfeited any claim to the treasure because they made no effort to discover the ship. The salvagers must now decide whether to appeal against the court's verdict, and a lower court will have to assess what proportion of the find should go to the insurers.

The gold recovered so far is being

held in a vault at a secret location in Virginia. Other items salvaged from the wreck include passenger's trunks, clothing and children's toys. The Virginia court recorded how "newspapers reporting the disaster contained vivid accounts of men flinging down their hard-earned treasure in disgust upon realising their impending doom".

Lloyd's expressed surprise yesterday at the unexpected windfall. "I don't think there's ever been a case quite like this," Martin Leach, a spokesman, said. "It's now a question of finding the descendants of the original insurers or what's left of the original syndicates. There's a lot of paperwork going back 130 years and the legal department is looking into it. Someone is going to be very pleasantly surprised."

Lloyd's victory, page 17

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Swan Hunter and Jaguar cut 2,000 jobs as sales slump

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 2,000 job losses were announced yesterday as the Confederation of British Industry said that economic pessimism among manufacturers had reached its worst level for 15 months.

The car maker Jaguar told unions that 700 jobs would have to be cut from its Midlands-based operations, and Swan Hunter, the warship builder, said that it was shedding more than 1,400 jobs on Tyneside after a rapid slump in orders.

The redundancies were pounced on by union leaders, politicians and businessmen as further evidence that Britain's manufacturing industry was spiralling into a fatal decline. The CBI scrapped its forecasts of 2.9 per cent growth in the economy in 1993 in favour of a revised estimate of 0.7 per cent, following a contraction this year of 1 per cent.

Motor manufacturers face a further fall in new car sales after 1991, which was the worst annual slump for 50 years. As Jaguar announced its redundancies, Ford and Vauxhall both said that they were cutting the prices of some models by up to £1,100 in an effort to clear stocks of unwanted models.

Ford, which has introduced short-time working at both its main British plants, and Nissan are saying that new car sales this year will be only about 1.55 million, the lowest since 1982.

Ian McAllister, Ford of Britain's chairman, said that if the decline continued, "we will not be able to maintain production at full capacity. The options are short-time working or changing shift patterns. It does not necessarily mean closing plants but nothing is ruled out."

Jaguar, bought by Ford for £1.6 billion in 1989, is looking for volunteers to take redundancy. Union leaders said that the workforce was already down to 8,000 from 12,000 two years ago.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar's

chairman, said that the company would have closed already had it not been for the Ford takeover. "We are looking at frightening levels of loss which an independent company could not sustain," he said.

Roger Vaughan, Swan Hunter's joint chief executive, said that redundancies would start at the shipbuilder in December, cutting staff to 2,200. Half of those to go were on short-term contracts.

Swan Hunter has failed to win any of the last batch of orders for Type 23 frigates from the Ministry of Defence. A worldwide search for replacement orders has also failed.

Workers were not surprised at the news, with one leaving the Wallsend yard yesterday saying: "We have been expecting this for the last six months. The workload has dropped right down and morale has been very low."

Dr Vaughan said that the fortunes of shipbuilding were cyclical and added: "Our order book runs through to the end of 1994. However, we must ensure our employment level is in line with that work until new orders are won."

Nick Brown, MP for Newcastle East and a Labour spokesman on the economy, is asking for government aid for the shipbuilding industry. He is worried that the redundancies could signal the collapse of a series of employers on Tyneside.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, publishing Labour's survey of business closures yesterday, said he feared that 50,000 would go under by the end of the year. "Our latest estimate is that business failures are up more than 20 per cent in the year and companies are now failing at the rate of more than 1,000 a week. In many areas of the country, 200 unemployed men and women are chasing every vacancy on offer."

CBI warning, page 17

Soldier shot dead as Ulster's 3,000th victim is mourned

Richard Ford records how horror at sudden death has turned into weary acceptance of its inevitability

A SOLDIER was shot and killed last night while on patrol in South Armagh in Northern Ireland. He was in the strongly republican border village of Crossmaglen when he was hit by a single shot fired from near a Catholic church.

He was the third soldier to be murdered in Northern Ireland this year and the 58th victim of violence since January. The shooting came as people gathered outside Belfast City Hall for a silent rally to commemorate 3,000 violent deaths in 23 years in the province. The 3,000th victim, a 19-year-old Catholic man, was killed on Thursday night.

For the political and religious leaders, finding ade-

quate words to respond to the endless atrocities has become profoundly difficult. The constant repetition of violence has blunted the human response to carnage. Michael Mates, the security minister, did his best yesterday as he recited words that could have come from the lips of any of his predecessors. The killing of the 3,000th victim was "brutal and senseless" and the government and security forces would continue relentlessly to pursue those responsi-

ble for terrorist crimes. Yesterday as the people of Northern Ireland greeted the latest killings with equanimity, two former Northern Ireland ministers remembered a very different reaction to murders at the outset of the present troubles. They recalled the fear and panic that gripped the Roman Catholic community when the first killings occurred and remarked sadly that people in both communities had become immune to death.

Lord Fitz, the former MP for Belfast West, said that after the first killings in August 1969, the Roman Catholic community in parts of Belfast was terrified that it would be the victim of a Loyalist pogrom.

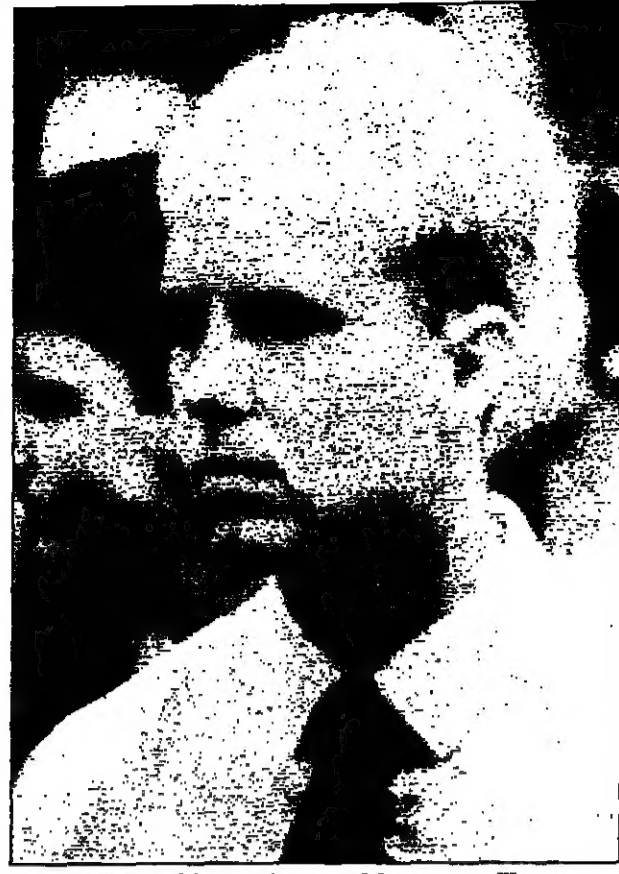
He said: "There was an awful lot of hysteria by people who feared they were going to be murdered in their beds. The people wanted the army brought in to protect them."

Only hours before John Gallagher became the first victim of the troubles, troops were deployed on the streets of the province after the Royal Ulster Constabulary, exhausted by nights of rioting and sectarian attacks, was forced to admit that it could no longer deal with violence in Londonderry and Belfast. The death and disorder was then headline news.

Such is the feeling of déjà vu about the continued killing in the province and Northern Ireland's political difficulties, that those days have long passed. Bombings and killings usually receive perfunctory coverage in the national media and sometimes are ignored.

But for the fact that he was the 3,000th person killed in the troubles and the victim of a feud in a republican group, the death of Hugh McKibben would probably not have received extensive media coverage yesterday. Paddy Devlin, a former minister in the power-sharing executive, said: "Unless it's four or five people being killed, these deaths hardly cause a ripple. We become immunised from the effects of killing and violence."

While John Gallagher was shot dead in 1969 by a member of the security forces, Mr McKibben, a member of the outlawed Irish People's Liberation Organisation, was killed by one-time colleagues in the republican group. It is a long way from the



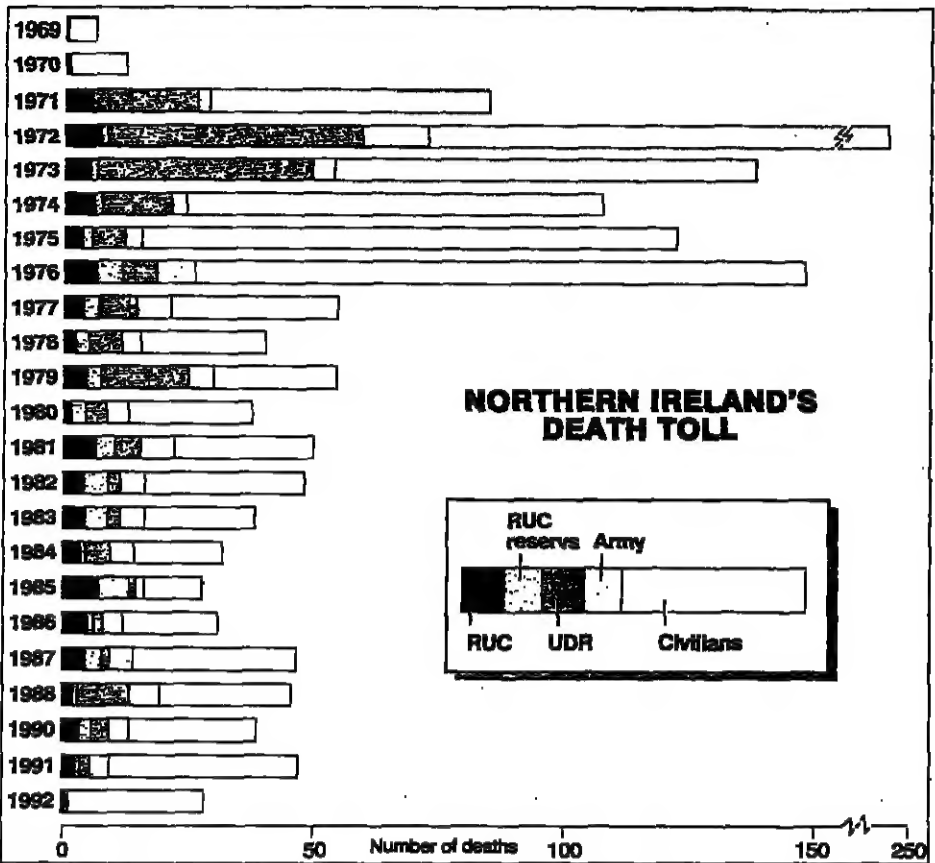
McKibben: his number, not his name, will count

demand for civil rights which spawned the street disturbances that spiralled into violence and paramilitary activity.

Yet while war weariness is said by some observers to have enveloped much of the community, ancient hatreds and enmities remain. On the one hand Ian Paisley, who once threw snowballs at a car carrying the Irish prime minister for talks to Stormont, is now willing to talk to Irish government ministers at Stormont. But two weeks ago, unionist councillors quashed a proposal to hold a joint reception in Belfast city hall for the island of Ireland's two Olympic boxing medalists. They refused to extend an

invitation to the Dublin man who had won a gold medal. Herbert Ditty, the city's Lord Mayor, commented: "I can only go along with things that are British."

The IRA are desperate for the killings to stop, according to Dr Edward Daly, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Londonderry. Dr Daly has been holding meetings with key members of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA. He told BBC Radio Ulster: "What I do detect, and I have no doubt about this, is a desperate anxiety and an urgent anxiety to end this conflict and to bring an end to all the suffering and heartbreak and misery and violence in our community."



SNP plays the Europe card

By KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National Party, which saw the number of its MPs cut from five to three at the general election, yesterday launched a four-year plan to strengthen its political, organisational and financial base. After the frustration of the general election results, when the party's vote in-

creased by almost 50 per cent but predicted victories failed to materialise, the Nationalists will issue their first rallying call to the Scottish electorate at their annual conference in Perth next month.

The strategy will attempt to persuade Scots that independence within the European Community offers the best way forward. It will stress the

virtues of independence rather than concentrate exclusively on attacking the Conservatives, a tactic that backfired in April when scaremongering over the dangers of going it alone drove voters back towards the Tory fold.

The party also believes that it should broaden its appeal by trying to encourage voters who back independence, but not the SNP, to realise that the only method of achieving their aim is to vote for the one party that can deliver self-government. Ironically for the Nationalists, there were many voters who admitted to backing the SNP but were fearful of full independence. Those voters were seized upon by the Tories in the weeks prior to April 9.

Party leaders recognise that the election result, despite its disappointment, does create some new opportunities. They will emphasise at every turn Labour's inability to deliver anything for Scotland because it is unelectable at Westminster. The party also believes that the decline in the credibility of devolution now brings a straight choice between independence and the union with England. During the last parliament the devolution debate offered Scots an easy option for constitutional change, muddying the argument for independence.

John Swinney, the party's national secretary, said that the four-day conference marked the start of a "process of renewal" that would allow the SNP to deliver independence by winning parliamentary seats and a clear mandate next time.

Oil spill threatens sea birds

AN oil spill in the Shetland Islands was last night threatening sea birds at the Noss National Nature Reserve. The slick of diesel oil was sighted yesterday morning, three miles northwest of the island, where 7,000 pairs of gannets are nesting.

By mid-afternoon the tide had swept the oil into a three-mile-long slick up to 100 yards wide, spreading around the northern shore of the island of Bressay and south past the Noss gannetry. After surveying the spill from a small boat, Mr Martin Heubeck of Shetland Bird Club said his main concern was for flocks of up to 1,700 eider ducks feeding in the area. The birds are molting and cannot fly out of the way of the oil. Black guillemots, great skuas and fulmars were also in the area.

Mr Heubeck said he could take several weeks for the oil to kill birds, as they tried to preen it from their feathers. If the oil had been sprayed with dispersant when first reported, he added, it could have been broken up but it was now "too late to do much about it".

Shetland coastguards said the slick had been reported to the government's Marine Pollution Control Unit in London. A surveillance helicopter chartered by Shetland Islands Council was not available to spray the oil yesterday. An informed source in Lerwick said Russian fish-factory ships had been refuelling north of Noss on Thursday.

Puma tales create a roaring trade

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SHAGGY cat tales about marauding pumas have prompted the launch of Britain's first recorded commercial sponsorship of big game hunting.

A hotel in co. Durham, where a spitting black beastie that one would not want on one's lap was first spotted in 1986, is offering 25 per cent discounts on holiday breaks to anyone finding puma droppings or other evidence. Hunters returning empty-handed will have to pay the full price of £175 for a weekend, including the loan of maps, video camera, pith helmet and two cooked legs of lamb intended to placate any hungry pumas they encounter.

Marianne Lamb, sales manager of the Redworth Hotel, near Newton Aycliffe, said yesterday: "We definitely believe the Durham puma exists. It has created a great deal of interest and we are optimistic a lot of people will take us up on this offer."

Alleged sightings of pumas, ocelots and other jungle cats all over Britain have increased in the past three decades and acquired a certain respectability. Experts at London Zoo say that there is sufficient evidence to believe that a number of big cats are running free. The rise in sightings is put down to increased car ownership, which means that animals are more often caught in the glare of headlights, and to the 1976 Dangerous Animals Act. This legislation required that all big cats had to be registered, encouraging unprincipled owners to abandon them in the wild.

Eddie Bell, 36, a former police sergeant and now a childcare worker, has investigated more than 90 sightings of the Durham puma and taken a plaster cast from a paw print. He said yesterday: "I am fairly certain there is something out there. Ninety people are unlikely all to be wrong."

Women warned after attack at traffic light

A 41-year-old woman was recovering in hospital last night after she was attacked by two men who climbed into her car when she stopped at a set of traffic lights in north London. The attack happened yesterday at the junction of Gravel Hill and Regents Park Road, Finchley, when the men forced her to knifepoint to an unknown location and sexually assaulted her. Neighbours found her sitting in her car more than two hours later in shock, not far from her home in the nearby Hendon area.

Detective Inspector Rodney Archer, leading police investigations into the incident, said: "This is a case that has very wide implications for women. The attack happened in broad daylight in a public place and involved an abduction at knifepoint. The woman has hardly spoken to us as she is so traumatised. We have to warn other women to be on their guard at all times. At this stage we are not linking it to any other crime."

Ballet strike nears

London City Ballet's new season was in jeopardy last night after a Musicians' Union ballot showed that 75 per cent of the orchestra were in favour of strike action after employment contracts were not renewed for three players. However, a union spokeswoman said: "There is still a chance of reaching an agreement. The management could get in contact." The company almost closed last year in a funding dispute with the Arts Council. The new season was due to open on September 14. In June, the London City Ballet wrote to three musicians to say their contracts would not be renewed. Management sent new contracts to the other players without a union agreement being signed.

Paddington Bear stolen

Paddington Bear, right, which welcomes passengers to Paddington station, west London, was stolen from its glass display case yesterday. Five youths were arrested and taken to Paddington Green police station. Two have been charged with theft and with criminal damage to the display case. They are due to appear before Magistrate's court today. Three others were released without charge.



Pesticide deaths fall

Fewer birds of prey and animals are being poisoned by pesticides but farm chemicals still kill dogs, cats, badgers, honey bees and rare birds, said a government report yesterday. Agriculture ministry inspectors investigated 752 suspected poisoning cases last year and found a positive link with pesticides in 193, compared to 223 the previous year. Twenty-eight birds of prey, including a golden eagle, red kites and buzzards, died last year after being illegally poisoned. The victims also included at least 67 dogs and 27 cats, and there were 85 cases of honey bee poisoning. There was "a continuing problem of deliberate abuse of pesticides", said the ministry.

Accused, 84, collapses

An 84-year-old man accused of the murder of a 94-year-old woman collapsed in court yesterday and was taken to hospital. The hearing before Portsmouth magistrates was lifted from the dock and put him on a stretcher. He was said overnight. Mr Smith, of no fixed abode, is accused of the murder of Emily Emma, whose body was found at the night. He was asked on his arrival in court if he could hear his walking stick in front of him.

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Fertility patient is sterilised in blunder by hospital

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE chief executive of a London hospital apologised yesterday to a 25-year-old woman who had been admitted for a fertility operation and was sterilised by mistake. An independent enquiry has been launched at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead to find out exactly how the error happened. It is thought that staff involved have been suspended.

John Cooper, chief executive of the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, said that the woman was in hospital for gynaecological investigations and in addition to these investigations was inadvertently sterilised. He expressed great regret and said that surgeons would attempt to reverse the operation.

"All possible steps have been put in hand to reverse the sterilisation procedure. In such cases it is necessary to wait for the tissue to recover from the previous operation before embarking on further surgery," he said.

The success rate for reversing the operation using tubal microsurgery techniques is more than 90 per cent, according to the hospital. However, there is no guarantee that the woman, who has requested anonymity, will gain fertility.

It is believed that the mistake occurred after a secretary misread the handwritten notes of a senior doctor and typed up the wrong instructions for the surgeon performing the operation. The patient, a solicitor's clerk, had been regularly attending the fertility clinic at the hospital until its closure earlier this year.

Dr Ron Pollock, former regional medical officer at Oxford regional health authority, will head the enquiry. The royal colleges are being

asked to nominate other members of the enquiry team. The Royal Free Hospital in north London, which became a self-governing trust in April last year, refused to comment on the suspensions or the circumstances surrounding the case. Sterilisation involves either the cutting or sealing of the fallopian tubes. Clips are often used to block the tubes. For the operation to be reversed the clips are removed and a small amount of damaged tissue is cut away before the tubes are rejoined. The operation, carried out under a microscope, is relatively simple but tricky because of the fine and narrowness of the tubes.

The clinic at the hospital was one of three centres offering in-vitro fertilisation treatment to women free of charge. Robert Shaw, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology and one of Britain's leading IVF experts, left the clinic because funding was increasingly difficult to find. While at the Royal Free he had raised enough money in private research grants to treat about 150 patients a year. When that money was lost and the hospital was not able to persuade the health authority to replace funding, he took up a post at the University of Wales in Cardiff, where there is an NHS-funded clinic.

The Royal Free Hospital was at the centre of controversy earlier this year when a man was murdered while making a telephone call in a hospital corridor. Staff were criticised for failing to recognise gun shot wounds until five hours after the man's death. Glenda Jackson, the Labour MP whose constituency takes in the Royal Free, introduced a bill to tighten security in hospitals as a result.



Making friends: four-year-old Laura Davies, from Eccles, Greater Manchester, feeds the ducks in a Pittsburgh park with her parents, Les and Fran, after being released from hospital. She will live with her parents and make regular visits to the hospital until she completely recovers from a life-saving liver and bowel transplant 11 weeks ago. The family expects another baby in December

Grade attacks 'Alice in Wonderland' BBC

By MELINDA WITTISTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Grade last night lambasted the BBC with a scathing criticism of its "Alice in Wonderland" market-oriented reforms, obsessive secrecy and "pseudo-Leninist style of management". He said the corporation risked being marginalised out of existence by its own misguided short-term strategy of appeasing politicians with the jargon of commerce instead of culture.

Making it clear that he was speaking as a friend of the BBC and a supporter of its public service ethos, the Channel 4 chief executive told broadcasters and programme makers assembled in Edinburgh for the annual television festival that his

nightmare was that the BBC would irrevocably dismember itself to ensure the continuation of the licence fee only to watch the Government continue to cut its funding each year. "This great institution would become marginalised and all the human misery resulting from all the cuts become sacrifice in vain. It must not be allowed to happen," he said, calling on the governors to fight for a long-term funding formula that eliminated the "all too frequent and debilitating negotiations with Downing Street".

Mr Grade was delivering the MacTaggart lecture and used the opportunity for what was seen as a thinly veiled attack on John Birt, who replaces Sir Michael Checkland next April as director-general. He said the BBC was "haemorrhaging talent"

frustrated by the governors' unwillingness to provide any support for programme makers, particularly when they most needed it. "There is talk inside of the 'pre-emptive cringe' but only privately... staff are afraid to speak publicly unless every word has been cleared by the BBC thought police," he said.

He also criticised the governors for demoralising BBC talent with ill-conceived internal market reforms before taking a knife to the wasteful bureaucracy at the corporate centre. "They don't seem to know the difference between core facilities, surplus fat and bureaucratic excess—all being tackled with the same brutal zeal. "Producer choice", a policy which from next April will force all BBC units, from studio to make-up, to

compete on price and quality against commercial rivals, was a "denial of everything the BBC stands for", Mr Grade said. It would turn programmes into commodities while threatening the existence of whole craft areas, which could devastate programme quality.

Mr Grade also criticised the BBC's new strategy of occupying the "higher ground" with distinctive programmes that are not available on any other channel. He said BBC governors, who have a "low vulgar threshold and watch precious little television", ignored at their peril the public's desire to be entertained. He also accused the governors of being unrepresentative and called for the creation of a British television commission to oversee the BBC and independent television.

Widowed mother appeals to Saddam

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE widowed mother of the latest Briton to be held in Iraq spoke yesterday of her fears that she would never see him again. Iris Wainwright was talking 24 hours after it emerged in Baghdad that her son, Michael, had been arrested for allegedly crossing Iraq's borders illegally.

Mr Wainwright, 41, was held in May after apparently entering the country without a visa. He is thought to be detained in a police station close to the Iraqi capital.

His mother said: "I am 61 now, at the back of my mind is the fear that I will never see him again and that is a terribly upsetting thought. If he was locked away for years I dare say he would survive, but it would be bound to change him and have a devastating effect on him. I don't know how Michael will cope with being imprisoned in an Iraqi cell. Who knows how someone will react in a position like that? I am just hoping and praying that he is not going to be used as a human shield. That is my greatest fear."

She appealed to President Saddam Hussein to free her son now. "Let him come home. It is his 42nd birthday on Monday and the greatest present we could wish for would be to see him safe and sound again. All the family will be together thinking about him on Monday. We are not church-goers but we can pray in our own way and we will be saying a special prayer for Michael on Monday."

Mrs Wainwright, who lives at Norland Town, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, said they knew nothing of her son's arrest until a letter arrived ten days ago from his cell. "The Foreign Office is keeping in touch with us, but we are a bit in the dark about what is happening. I feel dreadful, that's the worst part, not knowing what is going on. It's terribly frustrating."

Brush salesman who gave away a fortune

A SHY millionaire who had once peddled lavatory brushes, soap and sponges and died in a fire in June was posthumously unmasked in Minehead yesterday as the anonymous benefactor who gave almost £10 million to more than a dozen needy causes in the Somerset seaside resort.

Ivan Leech, 84, lived modestly and carried on selling "household and bathroom products" even after he inherited a fortune from a distant cousin ten years ago. With no fondness for the high life and a pronounced generous streak, he began handing out money to organisations as diverse as the British Field Sports Society (£980,400) and the Cancer Research Campaign (£1,960,000).

The local football team did well too. Mr Leech, a lifelong fan, posted them a cheque for £100,000.

Jim Parsons, his executor,



Ivan Leech: wanted the gifts to remain secret

recalled yesterday how his old friend had first reacted to the news of the inheritance. "We sat down and had a glass of whisky. Ivan said he was going to spend the money on local people and needy causes," he said.

The brush salesman turned millionaire had no fondness for fast living or chasing women, Mr Parsons added. "He would not have liked all this publicity. He wanted the gifts to be a secret. Ivan always gave anonymously and would be a bit cross if he found out he had finally been unmasked as the great benefactor he was."

Just about everyone benefited from his acts of kindness over the years, without the slightest clue who was behind them. He helped all the local sporting organisations — bowls, hockey, rugby and tennis. He had a heart of gold.

Mr Leech died in a fire at a seafarer's nursing home after he dropped a match in his lap and then attempting to douse the flames with brandy.

His name is now set to be

preserved for posterity. One of his beneficiaries, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which receives almost £1 million, is to name a boat after him. Edward Wake-Walker, a spokesman for the RNLI, said yesterday: "This is fantastic news. We rely on legacies but we have very seldom received a single donation of this size. Mr Leech's son is a lifeboatman so clearly this was a cause close to his heart."

A spokeswoman at Klenz in Bristol, which employed Mr Leech, said yesterday: "He had worked for us since 1952. He was a very well-known and popular figure. We had no idea he was so wealthy. It's a complete surprise."

Sue Holland, a cook at the nursing home where he spent his final years, said: "He was a lovely old fellow and nobody would have guessed he was a multi-millionaire."

Mr Leech's beneficiaries after his family and friends are: Cancer Research Campaign, £1.96 million; Tuberculosis Sclerosis Association, £1.96 million; Brooke Hospital for Animals, £980,400; St Louis Convent in Minehead, £980,400; Royal National Lifeboat Institution, £980,400; British Field Sports Society, £980,400; John Groom's Association for the Disabled, £490,200; Somerset Health Authority, £490,200; The Children's Society, £490,200; National Children's Homes, £490,200; Quirk's Almshouse Charity in Minehead, £98,000; Minehead Senior Citizens' Club, £98,000.

Mother in plea for son's killer

A MOTHER pleaded with a judge yesterday not to jail the drink-driver responsible for her son's death.

Jean Swain said she had forgiven the driver — her teenage son's best friend — and knew he had already suffered a great deal. Despite the appeal Judge Christopher Young told the woman he had to take into account "public concern over such cases".

The driver, Dean Burdall, 20, of Springfield, Clifford, near Wetherby, Yorkshire, was sentenced to two months in youth custody and was banned from driving for four years after which he will have to re-take his test. He and his best friend were students at Nottingham University's School of Agriculture in Sutton Bonington.

Burdall was nearly twice over the legal drink-drive limit when he offered Andrew Swain, 19, and two other student friends — Hannah Stephewick and Nicholas Sillito — a lift home from an end-of-term party. Leicester Crown Court was told the survivors were to say they each had only had two pints of beer to drink earlier in the evening. The B-registration Ford Escort 1.3 car with Burdall at the wheel and Swain in the front passenger seat was seen to accelerate at up to 70mph as it approached a bend on a bridge crossing the river Soar just outside the village.

Pensioner carried grenades in raid on building society

A MAN aged 74, who was ambushed by armed detectives as he tried to rob a building society, told the Old Bailey yesterday: "I was bloody stupid to try a thing like that at my age."

Judge Aglionby gave Charles Cowden a two-year jail sentence, suspended for two years. He told him: "It seems to me that, despite the fact that society's disapproval of this kind of activity has to be marked with a heavy sentence of imprisonment, there are a sufficient number of peculiar factors in your case which allow me to take a course of mercy."

The court was told that Cowden, of Kilburn, north London, had staged a raid on the Harpenden Building Society in Radlett, Hertfordshire, in an attempt to save a sick woman friend from spending the rest of her life in an old people's home.

The judge said that Cowden, who suffered from angina and other ailments, was not a fit man and was providing constant attention for Rosie Hiscock, also 74, who was "gravely afflicted" with various medical conditions.

Cowden had pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and to possessing a firearm on May 5 this year. Brian Reece, for the prosecution, said that Cowden had been armed with an air pistol, two smoke grenades and a knife. The court was told that he had a long list of convictions dating back to

1939, but he had not turned to robbery until he was 70.

At first, because of his age, the cashiers had thought that the raid was a joke, Mr Reece said. But when Cowden brandished the pistol and shouted: "This is a raid. Get your hands up," staff activated an alarm.

Cowden fled, but outside were armed police, who had been tipped off by an informer. He sank to his knees before the armed officers and pleaded: "Mind my heart. I've got a heart problem. Three days ago I was on oxygen." He told police that he had been "more frightened than the people behind the counter."

He maintained that he had turned to armed robbery for the sake of Mrs Hiscock, with whom he had lived for 20 years. "I thought it would reach the stage where they would say she could no longer look after herself and she would finish up like my late wife, who died in an old people's home," he said. "I thought, 'That is not going to happen to this one.'"

After pushing Mrs Hiscock from the court in her wheelchair, Cowden said: "The judge has been very fair. A prison sentence would have been a death sentence for me and for Mrs Hiscock. I regret that at my age I was so stupid to try a thing like that. The firearm I used was not lethal, but I have been confronted by guns in the Western Desert and it was not funny."

Mrs Hiscock said: "I think the judge was very kind."

Executive cars put to bed in heartbreak hotel

Firms shedding executives cannot afford to let go the cars they leave behind, Kevin Eason reports

and BMW saloons, have all been sent into storage at Storacar's premises at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

Every time a big company announces cutbacks among its senior managers, Mr Cowen expects a telephone call asking him to look after another car which has lost its unfortunate executive driver.

"The trend has very much been that when executives go, the cars stay within the company," he said yesterday. "With the car market as bad as it is now, it is not in the

interests of companies to try to sell valuable cars such as Jaguars and BMWs. They would not get a decent return on their investment. That is why we have had so many come in lately. They do not cost that much to store and they can be brought out for someone else to use or to be sold when the car market revives."

Jaguar's UK sales have dipped from 3,224 to 2,760 this year. Porsche sales have almost halved. Rolls-Royce's are down from 333 to 228, while Alfa Romeo has slipped

from 2,043 to 1,106 in the first seven months.

Now the unwanted Jaguars and BMWs without an executive to sit behind their steering wheels are lined up alongside some of the most valuable cars in Britain, also being held because of the recession. Over the past two years, Storacar has been used by finance companies which have repossessed exotic Ferraris or Lamborghinis from speculators.

At the height of the boom, investors funded their expensive purchases with big loans in the expectation of easy profits, only for the market for classic cars to collapse. The banks and loan companies which financed the deals discovered that the cars they repossessed could be worth

half their original purchase price. The only answer has been to store them until after the recession in the hope that there will be a revival in prices.

That risk has obviously been considered by owners of the Jaguar XJ220, the latest high-price car to hit the market. Costing £415,000, the Jaguar is a potentially valuable investment if prices eventually revive. Four owners are understood to have called Storacar to book spaces.

The air-conditioned premises, where cars are carefully polished, serviced and the engines started daily, have been busy lately. There are about 400 cars in store under the watchful eyes of security guards, compared with fewer than half that number before the recession.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

'Non' means the end for Mitterrand

"A 'No' victory means the departure of Francois Mitterrand, whether he wants it or not," said a demoralised

official at the party's headquarters in Rue de Solferino. "The resignation of the government would be pretty much automatic."

On September 20 the French people vote in the referendum to ratify Maastricht. The increasingly likely No vote would throw not only France but the rest of Europe into chaos. Will they do it? Stuart Warrall on the mood of France at the crossroads. In The Sunday Times tomorrow.

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Telephone 071-481 4000

Researchers discover viruses in victims of chronic fatigue

SCIENTISTS have discovered a link between chronic fatigue syndrome — so-called "yuppie flu" — and the presence in the blood of enteroviruses, members of a group of viruses known to cause disease.

Other studies have shown variations in the electrical behaviour of the brain in patients with the condition. Taken together, the two studies, reported at yesterday's session of the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Southampton, suggest that chronic fatigue syndrome is a condition that, in some patients at least, has a physical rather than a psychological cause.

Dr Geoffrey Clements of the Regional Virus Laboratory at

Scientists believe that so-called yuppie flu might have a physical cause, reports Nigel Hawkes

Ruchill Hospital in Glasgow, said that enterovirus-like fragments previously found in muscle had now also been identified in blood serum. The virus was discovered using the technique of polymerase chain reaction, a means of multiplying short sections of the DNA of the virus. The process enables very small amounts of viral DNA to be detected.

In the blood serum experiments reported yesterday, Dr Clements showed that of 91 patients with chronic fatigue syndrome, 43 per cent (39 patients) were positive for enteroviruses, against only 2.3 per cent of controls. Among acutely ill patients, 20 per cent showed the virus.

The results are insufficiently clear-cut to demonstrate that enteroviruses are the cause of the syndrome, and Dr Clements claimed only to have detected an association. "There are more than 70 types of enterovirus, and they are implicated in many diseases, including polio, cardiac and muscle diseases, and skin rashes," he said.

Dr Stuart Butler of the

Burden Neurological Institute in Bristol reported on studies of the electrical activity of the brain among sufferers from the syndrome. In particular, he found an abnormal signal produced by sufferers after tests in which they had to detect a stimulus and respond to it. That signal, known as the post-impulsive negative variation, was prominent in people with the syndrome and absent in those without it. The study was small, involving 20 patients and 20 controls, but the result was statistically sound.

This particular type of signal is found in other disorders, and so is not a specific marker for chronic fatigue syndrome. But it does suggest that the brain of sufferers is disturbed, as is the brain of patients with certain neurological illnesses and psychiatric disorders with an organic cause.

"In properly selected groups, we are now saying that we have strong evidence that something organic is going on in these patients," Dr Clements said.

Clare Francis, the yachtswoman who has herself suffered from the disease, said that the evidence confirmed that the syndrome, which she calls myalgic encephalomyelitis, or ME, was not a "belief disorder", as some doctors had claimed. She said she thought that up to 150,000 people suffered from the condition at any one time in Britain.



Francis: up to 150,000 afflicted in Britain



Face to face: Alistair Wallace from Southampton with a royal python, which was taken to the British Association meeting yesterday by Marwell Zoo to give children the chance to handle exotic animals

President attacks training of doctors

BY NIGEL HAWKES

EVIDENCE that British research in the clinical sciences was declining in quality should be taken "very seriously", the new president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science said yesterday.

Professor Sir David Weatherall, who has succeeded Sir David Attenborough, said British medical research departments were too small and efforts might need to be concentrated into bigger units. Doctors got no credit for taking research degrees and medical training in the UK took too long, he said.

The time had come to reform Britain's "ossified" medical education system. "It takes far too long to train a doctor in this country," the new president said. "In the US, they do it in half the time."

Sir David commented on evidence made available this week by the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia, which measures the world's output of scientific papers and assesses their quality by counting the number of times they are cited by other scientists. The ISI report suggested a decline in the quality of papers in clinical science. Sir David is himself Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine, Oxford.

He said: "Our departments were fine 30-40 years ago, but now clinical research is very sophisticated. Some departments are just a man and a boy, and they are simply not big enough to cope." He accepted that the solution might be to concentrate more of the research effort in fewer, larger departments.

He was critical of the growth of anti-scientific attitudes. "There is a danger in exaggerating the benefits of science," he said. "If those hopes are not realised, it can cause disillusion, which in turn leads to a situation where the government becomes cautious about the benefits of science. There was evidence of that in the recent health white paper, *The Health of the Nation*, which was all about prevention and not about medical science. The idea that basic science doesn't have anything to offer in curing disease, as opposed to preventing it, is a serious danger to the government support of science."

The week was described as a huge success by Sir David Attenborough, who said that the association had transformed itself in recent years.

Cockroaches blamed for asthma increase

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

COCKROACHES, new crops and the fungus that causes athlete's foot could be the causes of a sharp rise in asthma attacks, particularly among the elderly, the last day of the British Association's meeting in Southampton was told yesterday.

Stephen Holgate, a clinical research professor for the Medical Research Council, based at Southampton University, said that air pollution and motor vehicles aggravated the condition today. Modern houses were also airtight, humid, and full of furnishings in which dust mites, claimed to be the biggest cause of asthma, thrived.

But he said new substances

that could trigger inflammation of a susceptible person's lungs had been discovered. They included a protein found in the faeces of European and North American cockroaches. Studies were being launched to identify the extent of those asthma triggers, which include the rape plant and athlete's foot fungus.

John Warner, professor of child health at Southampton University, said the rise in asthma has been accompanied by a growth in products claiming to get rid of allergens. He said proper scientific studies were needed to prove whether they were practical and led to an improvement in the health of the sufferer.

Scientist who ate humble Pi

OF ALL the Englishmen to achieve unpopularity among the French, a Durham mathematician named Shanks must rank highly (Nick Nuttall writes).

In 1937, the Palais de la Découverte in Paris decided to adorn its dome and corridors with 707 wooden figures to mark his achievement in calculating Pi to 707 decimal places. Eight years later, it was discovered that he had the last 180 places wrong, and the monument to his memory had to be pulled down.

"They were forced to start all over again. The English were not very popular," Dr Roger Webster, of Sheffield University, told the British Association meeting in a whimsical

talk tracing mathematicians' obsession with Pi, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.

It was an obsession dating as far back as the pharaohs, he said. It had inspired poetry and led to the tombstone of Ludolph van Ceulen, a German, being inscribed with the 35 decimal placings he had calculated in 1610.

William Jones, a Welsh mathematician, was the first to use Pi as the circle symbol, in a publication in 1706. Dr Webster said. He told his audience that Johann Dase, an illiterate born in Hamburg last century, was gifted with the remarkable ability to multiply huge numbers correctly without pen or paper. In

1844, when the world record for Pi was 100 decimal places, Dase doubled it, taking two months to perform the feat.

The first electronic calculation was performed on a machine called Eniac, which took 30 hours to take Pi past the 2,000-digit mark.

The record was now held by the Chudnovsky brothers, of New York, who used a computer to push Pi to 2,260,325,000 places, beating the previous record of just over a billion, held by a Japanese. "They built their own computer out of spare parts from a mail order service and it is in their apartment in New York," Dr Webster said. "It needs 25 fans to keep it cool."

Thatcher's role in tobacco industry 'a total disgrace'

FIVE leading medical researchers with an interest in respiratory diseases yesterday launched an unprecedented attack on Baroness Thatcher and Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, former head of the Home Civil Service (Nick Nuttall writes).

They described Lady Thatcher's decision to carry out speaking engagements on behalf of the makers of Marlboro cigarettes and her failure to dissociate herself from a reported \$1 million (£500,000) a year job with the firm as "a total disgrace".

John Moxham of King's College School of Medicine, London University, said at the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science that smoking would kill about 500 million people on the planet alive today. In Britain, three out of ten people between the ages of 35 and 69 died from smoking related disease and worldwide sales of cigarettes were rising.

Professor Moxham said the risks had been known for 40 to 50 years but the government had failed to ban



Thatcher: criticised by medical researchers

tobacco advertising. The government was opposing European Community proposals covering a ban.

Professor Moxham, whose attack was supported by Dr Stephen Holgate and Professor John Warner of Southampton University, Dr James Milledge of Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, and Dr Paul Corris of the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon

Tyne, accused the government of colluding with the tobacco industry.

He said the most depressing feature was the way that people of influence were hired by the big tobacco firms to help to avoid bans and "penetrate Third World markets."

"It is why people like Lord Armstrong are on the board of BAT and why Mrs Thatcher has joined Marlboro... it is a scandal," Professor Moxham said. "Just imagine, she was the prime minister who appointed people like Waldegrave and the present cabinet who produced a paper on the health of the nation. They acknowledged smoking was the key issue... and she is hired up to promote this product."

He acknowledged that Lady Thatcher had not publicly accepted the Marlboro post. "There has been no denial and there has been no disavowal... we know she has done a number of speaking engagements on their behalf. There was nobody available to comment at the Thatcher Foundation last night."



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Top grammars point the way to selection in state sector

GRAMMAR and other selective schools lived up to their high academic reputation and rigorous entrance standards in the Times A-level survey. They accounted for all but one of the state schools, achieving an average Universities' Central Council on Admissions score per candidate of more than 20 points.

The top state school in the survey, the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, achieved an average score of 23.2, with 189 grade As and 129 grade Bs awarded to its 186 candidates. Rowland Brown, head teacher, said that the school's "academic momentum" has been a factor in its success. Historically, the Royal Grammar School had had a strong academic tradition, which is not simply a feature of the last year or two. This is reflected in the fact that the last three headmasters, including myself, have been members of the Head Masters Conference, although we are a state school.

The school, which selects 180 pupils from 2,000 applicants each year and whose alumni include the philosopher Roger Scruton, was committed to strength in all areas of the curriculum. Single-sex schools, which accounted for all but two of the top 20 state schools, offered an education sheltered from "the distractions of growing up", he said. The grammar schools' strong showing in the table

Single-sex schools account for 18 of the top 20 state schools, reports Matthew d'Ancona

compared with their fee-paying competitors is sure to encourage grant-maintained comprehensives to seek a "change of character" from the education secretary to allow them to become selective. However, Geoffrey Taylor, deputy head of the Judd School in Tonbridge, Kent, said it was wrong to make sweeping conclusions about different types of school.

"One can't possibly conclude that an individual is better served by one particular system. It would be quite wrong to say that comprehensives are bad at dealing with their own kind of intake. So we don't feel arrogant or complacent about the results." Judd, which achieved an average score of 23.0, including 19 grade As in English, was not an "academic factory" and valued music and drama as much as examination performance, he said.

The top comprehensive in the league table, Haslemere Boys High School in Barnes, north London, achieved a score of 21.8, only fractionally lower than the three selective



Brown: students thrive on "academic momentum"

schools which trumped it. Rabbi Meir Roberg, head teacher, said that the high ranking of the voluntary aided Jewish school should encourage other comprehensives to stretch their pupils. "In this country, one of the problems with education is that people are concerned that it's too demanding. But we shouldn't be worried about being over-achievers."

This year's league table, in

which 23 grant-maintained schools achieved an Ucas average of 16.0 or more, will also be scrutinised by parents facing ballots next term on opting out of local authority control. Bob Balchin, chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, said improved results followed if a school had better resources.

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Westminster sixth formers overhaul rivals from Winchester College

John O'Leary finds proof that careful selection and expensive schooling make for the best results



Delighted: David Summerscale of Westminster

A VINTAGE crop of sixth formers allowed Westminster School to overtake its great rival, Winchester College, to register the best A-level results in Britain.

With independent schools filling the top 40 places in the Times survey of A-level results, competition was intense for the leading places within the sector. Westminster pupils needed the equivalent of three A grades each to finish on top. David Summerscale, Westminster's headmaster, said: "We are absolutely delighted. With probably 70 Oxbridge places and a big improvement in the number of top grades, it is the best we have ever done in some ways. But it has been a steady development, rather than an aberration."

"We do not want to say we are better than anyone else. There are schools doing their job in harder circumstances just as well." He added: "We try to create a climate to enable pupils and teachers to flourish."

Westminster is highly selective, beginning to choose those who will enter at 13 well in advance. Interviews and written tests take place at ten before the final hurdle of interviews and the Common Entrance examination at 13. Sixth-form entry is equally arduous. The school supplements GCSE results with its own tests and interviews to reduce more than 160 hopefuls to about 40.

An analysis of the previous five years' results carried out for the Independent Schools Information Service showed Westminster, in Hampshire, on top, with Westminster third. Both had improved on their previous performance.

Pass rates improved this year in most of the 519 schools

supplying results to Isis. The average score for the sector improved by almost the equivalent of one A-level grade.

The rankings confirmed the supremacy of independent schools at A-level. In all schools, one in eight subject entries achieved an A grade, but more than a quarter of independent schools' entries reached the top mark. Independent schools' pass rate was almost 92 per cent, compared with less than 80 overall.

As in the state system, single-sex schools dominated the top places for 1992. Westminster, with a co-educational sixth form, was the only one to break the monopoly. Examination success comes at a

price. Westminster charges more than £11,550 a year for boarders, ahead of Eton and Winchester at £10,800. The top day school fees ranged from £6,450 at St Paul's to £3,270 at Sir William Perkins. Some famous public schools, such as Rugby and Haileybury, finished lower down the table. Both finished ahead of all but a small number of state schools.

The rankings showed that some of the smaller independent schools have registered consistently low results. Some lesser-known schools averaged less than three D grades per pupil over the past five years. Other small schools missed out on a day of glory because

of the exclusion of those with fewer than 40 candidates from the rankings. Princess Helena College, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, with only two candidates, would have matched Winchester with its average score of 29 Ucas points.

The others which would have featured in the top 100 are Twycross House, near Atherstone, Warwickshire, which averaged 25.4 points; Torridge School, Guildford, Surrey, 23; Presentation College, Reading, Berkshire, 22.7; York College for Girls, 22.7; St Mary's School, Calne, Wiltshire, 22.2; Blackhead High School, London, 22; Channing School, London, 21.9; More House School, London, 21.4; and St George's School, Ascot, Berkshire, 21.3.

David Woodhead, the national director of Isis, said: "We always advise parents that exam results illustrate only one aspect of a school's success, and should be seen in the context of everything else it does. In particular, parents need to bear in mind that schools have very different entry policies - some are highly selective, while others take a wide range of abilities. The differences are bound to be reflected in their exam results."

The top ten schools in the period 1987-91, with their average Ucas scores, were: Winchester College (26.6); King Edward's School, Birmingham (26.2); Westminster School (25.1); Eton College (24.6); St Paul's Girls' School, London (24.4); Haberdashers' Aske's School, Hertford (24.3); Manchester Grammar School (24.2); St Paul's School, London (24.2); North London Collegiate School (23.8); Royal Grammar School, Guildford (23.6).

How table measures the results

TODAY'S league table of top independent and state schools is the first time that the A-level results of the two sectors have been compared systematically. It integrates a survey of more than 200 state schools by The Times with information published yesterday by the Independent Schools Information Service.

The intention of the table is not to label schools as good, better and best, but to measure their relative academic performance in the "gold standard" examination, using the scoring system of the Universities Central Council for Admissions (Ucas).

Ten points were awarded for a grade A, 8 for a B, 6 for a C, 4 for a D and 2 for an E. Extra points were awarded for AS marks, ranging from 5 for an A to 1 for an E. General studies was excluded to ensure consistency with the independent schools and only schools with 40 or more candidates were listed.

The use of an Ucas points average per candidate was chosen because it took account of the widest band of



Working for success: a sixth form A-level student at St Paul's Girls' School

results, in contrast to other published league tables which have included only A and B grades. Predictably, this tactical decision sparked intense debate among head teachers, who were split on its merits.

Some argued that the system unfairly rewarded those schools which could afford to

enter their candidates for more than three A levels or for additional AS levels, while a few declined to participate in an exercise, which they regarded as divisive.

Keith Howard, head teacher of Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, which achieved an average score of

20.0, said that the growing obsession with league tables would disadvantage the state sector.

However, others argued that the use of an Ucas average was sensible given that schools would soon have to publish this information under the parent's charter.

State schools in bold type

State schools in bold type	Pupil Nos	Ucas score average
Westminster School, London m	143	30.0
Winchester College, Winchester b	137	29.8
St Paul's School, London b	144	28.3
King Edward's School, Birmingham b	111	27.7
Eton College, Windsor b	282	27.1
St Paul's Girls' School, London g	78	26.8
Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree b	150	26.7
Sir William Perkin's, Chertsey b	42	26.2
North London Collegiate, Edgware g	97	25.8
Winchester College, Winchester b	137	25.5
Haberdashers' Aske's Girls, Elstree g	114	25.5
King's School, Chester b	54	25.3
Malvern Girls College, Malvern g	84	25.2
Manchester Grammar School, Manchester b	186	25.2
King's College School, London b	128	25.1
Cheltenham Ladies' College, Cheltenham g	131	25.0
City of London School, London b	116	25.0
King's School, Canterbury m	179	24.7
Radley College, Abingdon b	125	24.6
Royal Grammar School, Guildford b	124	24.4
Perse School, Cambridge b	86	24.3
Queen's School, Chester g	82	24.2
Sherborne School for Girls, Sherborne g	70	24.2
University College School, London b	93	24.0
Eltham College, London m	93	23.8
Fettes College, Edinburgh m	42	23.8
Godolphin & Lyngmer, London g	85	23.7
St Swinerton's School, Winchester b	49	23.7
Bradford Grammar School, Bradford m	169	23.6
James Allen's Girls' School, London g	83	23.6
Winchester High School for Girls g	78	23.6
Old Palace School, Croydon g	125	23.6
Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-U-T b	137	23.6
City of London, Girls, London g	80	23.5
Wycombe Abbey School, High Wycombe g	84	23.5
Godolphin & Lyngmer, London g	85	23.5
St Albans High School, St Albans b	58	23.4
Bedford School, Bedford b	45	23.3
Brighton & Hove High, Brighton g	44	23.3
Marchmont School, Liverpool b	90	23.3
Royal Grammar, High Wycombe b	186	23.2
Shrewsbury School, Shrewsbury b	117	23.2
The Judd School, Tonbridge, Kent b	110	23.0
Coleherne County High School g	85	23.0
Anglo-Portsmouth College, York b	122	23.0
Harrow School, Harrow b	159	23.0
Loughborough High School, Loughborough g	77	23.0
Magdalen College School, Oxford b	89	23.0
Perse School for Girls, Cambridge g	95	23.0
Portsmouth High, Portsmouth g	85	23.0
Wellington College, Gwentown m	182	23.0
Leeds Girls' High, Leeds g	87	22.9
Cumtice School, Scarborough m	201	22.9
Abbey School, Reading g	94	22.8
Dulwich College, London b	187	22.8
Hampton School, Hampton b	121	22.8
St Mary's School, South Ascot g	41	22.8
Charterhouse, Godalming m	170	22.7
Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton g	87	22.7
Notting Hill & Ealing High, London g	89	22.7
Wimborne High School, London g	52	22.7
Deen Close School, Cheltenham m	90	22.6
King Edward's School, Bath m	109	22.6
Leeds Grammar School, Leeds b	130	22.6
King Edward VI High School, Birmingham m	74	22.5
King Edward VI School, Southampton g	138	22.4
Oxford High School, Oxford g	191	22.3
Sevenshoe School, Severnside m	81	22.3
Winthorpe School, Manchester g	81	22.3
Queen Elizabeth Grammar, Wakefield b	81	22.2
St Catherine's School, Guildford g	84	22.1
Leicester Grammar School m	104	22.1
Red Maids' School, Bristol g	58	22.1
Cranleigh School, Cranleigh m	116	22.0
Marchmont School, Northwood g	78	22.0
Monmouth School, Monmouth b	71	22.0
Roadside School, Brighton g	58	22.0
South Hampstead High, London g	58	22.0
King's High School, North Yorks g	155	21.9
Epsom College, Epsom m	110	21.8
Haslemere Boys High School, Barnes b	108	21.8
Abingdon School, Abingdon b	78	21.8
Bristol Grammar School, Bristol m	78	21.8
St Leonards-Mayfield, Mayfield g	109	21.7
John Lyon School, Harrow b	207	21.7
Marlborough College, Marlborough m	117	21.7
Nottingham High School, Nottingham b	111	21.7
Whitgift School, Croydon b	100	21.6
Bolton School (Boys), Bolton b	100	21.6
St Bernard's Grammar School, Slough m	128	21.5
Repton School, Derby m	128	21.5
Sherborne School, Sherborne b	131	21.5
Loughborough Grammar, Loughborough b	48	21.5
Maynard School, Exeter g	75	21.5
St Helen & St Katharine, Abingdon g	127	21.5
Stockport Grammar, Stockport m	119	21.5
Trinity College, Northampton m	130	21.5
Braydon School, Bradford m	80	21.5
Caterham School, Caterham m	78	21.5
Central Newcastle High, Newcastle-U-T g	84	21.5
Headington School, Oxford g	144	21.5
Rugby School, Rugby m	160	21.5
Pat's Grammar School, Cheltenham GM m	87	21.0
Kendrick School, Reading g	98	21.0
Newstead Wood, Oxington GM g	98	21.0
Haverhill Barnet, School London g	105	21.0
Cheshamford County High, Girls, Essex GM g	74	21.0
Downside School, Bath m	40	21.0
Harrogate Ladies College, Harrogate g	78	21.0
Marchmont School, Liverpool g	42	20.9
Queen Margaret's School, York g	68	20.9
Huntingdon School, York m	55	20.9
Barnham School, Barnham g	144	20.9
Chirk's Hospital, Horsham m	113	20.9
Nottingham High, Girls, Nottingham g	40	20.9
Shrewsbury High School, Shrewsbury g	87	20.8
Croydon High School, Croydon g	100	20.8
Royal Grammar School, Worcester b	100	20.8
Malvern College, Malvern b	94	20.8
Wolverhampton Grammar, Wolverhampton m	94	20.8

State schools in bold type	Pupil Nos	Ucas score average
King Edward VI Camp Hill Boys', Birmingham b	88	20.7
King Edward VI Grammar S, Chelmsford GM b	109	20.7
Dauntsey's School, Devizes m	107	20.7
Victoria College, Jersey b	84	20.6
Highbury School, London b	83	20.6
Kent College, Canterbury m	90	20.6
Berkhamsted School, Berkhamsted b	95	20.5
Greatham's School, Holm m	95	20.5
Haberdashers' Mowbray Girls, Monmouth g	78	20.5
Isleworth School, Isleworth g	85	20.5
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, Blackburn m	109	20.5
Babine School, Coventry b	103	20.4
Bedford School, Bedford b	141	20.4
Chesham Grammar, Chesham m	119	20.4
Downe House, Newbury g	80	20.4
Isleworth High School, Isleworth g	42	20.4
Portsmouth Grammar, Portsmouth m	124	20.4
St Edward's School, Oxford m	127	20.4
High School, Sutton g	92	20.4
Woldingham School, Woldingham b	187	20.2
Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham b	78	20.2
Birkenhead High School, Birkenhead g	78	20.2
Bradford Girls' Grammar, Bradford g	90	20.2
Clifton College, Bristol m	139	20.2
Exeter School, Exeter m	130	20.2
King's School, Tyngsley m	90	20.2
Stamford School, Stamford b	104	20.2
Bournemouth School, Dorset GM b	116	20.1
Royal Grammar School, Colchester b	85	20.1
Scotlands School, Peterhead m	81	20.1
Bedford Modern School, Bedford b	121	20.1
King's High School, Girls, Warwick g	88	20.1
King's School, Ely m	67	20.1
Norwich High School Girls, Norwich g	57	20.1
Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol b	54	20.1
St Peter's School, York m	97	20.1
Trinity School, Croydon b	113	20.1
Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall b	98	20.0
Altrincham Grammar S for Girls, Trafford g	78	20.0
Trinity School, Kingston upon Thames g	97	20.0
Turbridge Wells Grammar S for Girls, Kent g	72	20.0
Wolverhampton Girls' High, W Mids GM g	72	20.0
Brighton College, Brighton m	20	20.0
Solihull School, Solihull m	122	20.0
Yarm School, Yarm m	63	20.0
Godolphin School, Salisbury g	40	19.9
Kingsley School, Leamington Spa g	46	19.9
Northwood School, Northwood m	147	19.9
Dr Challoner's High Sch, L Chalfont g	140	19.8
Cheltenham College, Cheltenham m	130	19.8
Oakham School, Oakham m	137	19.8
Penelope Comprehensive Sch, Aberystwyth m	78	19.7
Bath High School, Bath g	45	19.7
Brentwood School, Brentwood m	110	19.6
Queensdown School, Kibby g	13.6	19.6
Grange School, Northwick m	59	19.6
Pulney High School, London g	74	19.6
St Helen's School, Northwood g	72	19.6
Alley's School, London m	19.5	19.5
Barnard's School, Woodford GM m	97	19.5
Cardinal School, Wimbome m	113	19.5
Bordon School, Bordon m	98	19.5

State schools in bold type

	Pupil Nos	score average
Lord Wandsworth College, Basingstoke m	82	18.2
Warwick School, Warwick b	108	18.2
Royal Grammar School, Lancaster GM b	118	18.1
Bromsgrove School, Bromsgrove m	86	18.1
Dame Alice Harpur School, Bedford g	127	18.1
Edgworth High, Girls, Birmingham g	51	18.1
Surbiton High School, Kingston-U-T g	43	18.1
Cranbrook School, Kent GM m	128	18.0
Chew Valley School, Bristol m	72	18.0
Queen Catherine School, Kendal GM m	78	18.0
King's School, Macclesfield m	137	18.0
Kingston Grammar School, Kingston-U-T m	71	18.0
Arnold School, Blackpool m	81	17.9
Bedford High School, Bedford g	118	17.9
City of London Freemen's, Ashford Park m	52	17.9
St George's College, Weybridge m	81	17.9
Sion School, Worthing m	29	17.9
Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks g	66	17.9
West Buckland School, Barnstaple m	46	17.9
Aylesbury High School, Buckinghamshire g	176	17.8
Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury b	94	17.8
Beaumont School, Herts m	75	17.7
Wycombe High School, High Wycombe g	154	17.7
Bradfield College, Reading m	130	17.7
Dame Alice Owen's School, Putney Bar m	97	17.6
King's School, Grantham GM b	72	17.6
Kirkham Grammar School, Preston m	65	17.5
Queen's College, Taunton m	65	17.5
Sedburgh School, Sedburgh b	74	17.5
St Christopher School, Lutworth m	41	17.5
Malden Grammar School, Kent b	90	17.4
Colfe's School, London m	90	17.4
Hulme Grammar School Girls, Oldham g	54	17.4
Ladies College, Guernsey g	45	17.4
Northampton High, Northampton g	78	17.4
Sheffield High School, S Yorkshire g	67	17.4
Ilkley Grammar School, West Yorkshire m	95	17.3
Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls, Kent g	118	17.3
Southend High School for Girls, Essex g	100	17.3
Blue Coat School, Liverpool b	106	17.3
Northallerton Grammar, North Yorks m	117	17.3
Kirkcaldy School, Cumbernauld GM m	58	17.3
Acworth School, Portlanoct m	58	17.3
Barnard's School, Cranbrook g	56	17.3
Forest Girls' School, London g	47	17.3
Glenalmond College, Perth m	76	17.3
Kimbolton School, Huntingdon m	75	17.3
King's School, Rochester m	75	17.3
Leighton Park School, Reading b	82	17.3
St Dunstan's College, London b	85	17.3
Sassard High, Girls, Stamford g	61	17.2
Rainham Mark Grammar, Gillingham GM m	124	17.2
Watford Girls' Grammar School, Herts GM g	101	17.2
Stoke Newington School, Middlesex m	83	17.2
Elizabeth College, Guernsey b	67	17.2
Pangbourne College, Reading b	113	17.2
Plymouth College, Plymouth m	58	17.2
Southend High School For Boys, Essex b	108	17.1
Johnston Comprehensive, Durham m	100	17.1
Ardsley College, Heywards Htn m	85	17.1
Truro School, Truro m	131	17.1
Westholme School, Blackburn g	54	17.1
Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone b	133	17.0
Simon Tette School, Hertford m	78	17.0
Cheall Upper School, Oxford m	120	17.0
Durham School, Durham m	73	17.0
Rydal School, Colwyn Bay m	63	16.9
Culter School, Bury St Edmunds m	63	16.9
Giggleswick School, Settle m	62	16.9
Monkton Combe School, Bath m	82	16.9
St John's College, Southsea m	49	16.9
Talbot Heath School, Bournemouth g	62	16.9
Spalding Grammar School, Lincolnshire m	73	16.8
Christ College, Brecon m	73	16.8
Mount School, York b	38	16.8
St Margaret's School, Watford g	48	16.8
Bury Grammar for Girls g	101	16.7
King's College, Taunton m	104	16.7
New Hall, Chislehurst m	59	16.7
St Lawrence, Ramsgate m	59	16.7
Burnham Grammar School, Bucks m	59	16.8
Bedford Lauffe CE School, Chichester m	71	16.6
Kingwood, Bath m	82	16.6
St Bede's College, Manchester m	103	16.6
Wellingborough, Northants m	82	16.6
Colson Girls, Bristol g	69	16.6
Stowe, Bucks m	119	16.6
King Edward VI Aston, Birmingham b	69	16.4
St Peter Venerable School, Sutton Coldfield m	11	16.4
Howard of Effingham, Surrey m	57	16.4
St Bernard's Convent School, Slough m	85	16.4
Heathcote Grammar, West Yorks GM m	86	16.4
Bury Grammar, Lancs b	82	16.4
St Edwards College, Liverpool m	84	16.4
Kendworth School, Warwickshire m	96	16.3
Hunstpeterm, S. Sussex m	29	16.3
Claremont High School, Brent GM m	28	16.2
High School for Girls, Boston, Lincs g	10	16.2
Asford, Kent g	61	16.2
St Benedict's, London m	80	16.2
Witcomb Grammar, Cambs m	61	16.2
Adams' Grammar Sch, Newport, Salop GM m	47	16.1
Deerisle Road High School, Gloucester g	61	16.1
King Edward VI School, Lichfield m	104	16.1
Old Swinford Hospital Sch, Stratfordbridge GM b	77	16.1
Wheaton House School, Surrey b	70	16.1
Blahop Stopford C of E, Kettering, Northants m	84	16.1
Dana Court Grammar School, Broadstairs m	109	16.1
Perth, IDW m	62	16.1
Tony Giff's Grammar School g	68	16.0
Reskine High School, Wrexhamshire m	63	16.0
Ysgol Gyfun Ynnwreg Glanraf, Cardiff m	75	16.0
Sr William Roberts's Grammar Sch, Bucks m	75	16.0
Wilton's School, Surrey b	67	16.0
Batley Grammar, W Yorks m	63	16.0
Pocklington, York m	78	16.0

KEY: GM: grant-maintained. b: boys. g: girls. m: mixed. Ind: non ISIS independent.

RESEARCH: Dominic Troner, Sarah Tuss, Alexander Oakley, Julia Hartley-Brewer.

Everything we do is driven by you



UN uncovers damage to Britain's forests

TREES in Britain are suffering from an alarmingly high rate of defoliation and Europe's forests generally are getting sicker, says a United Nations report yet to be published.

Surveys were carried out in 25 countries to monitor and assess the effects of air pollution on forests for a meeting of the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution in Geneva last week.

In the United Kingdom more than half the trees surveyed are reported as suffering from defoliation of 25 per cent or more, by far the highest figure in Europe. However, the report warns against too strict comparisons, since the same criteria are not followed in each country.

The Forestry Commission in this country, for example, is likely to have used particularly strict measurement standards, but would probably also argue that leaf growth in Britain is naturally thinner than in many other countries. In 1991 and across Europe as a whole, 22.2 per cent of the total sample (about 93,000 trees on 3,800 plots) were suffering from defoliation of more than 25 per cent and were thus classified as damaged. The comparable figure for 1990 was 20.8 per cent, which means that the number of damaged trees rose by 6.7 per cent in a single year.

The increase is even larger in EC countries, the report says. Between 1990 and 1991, the percentage of damaged trees rose from 15.1 per cent to 18.4 per cent, an increase of nearly 22 per cent.

Conifers were shown to be suffering more damage than broadleaves, 24.4 per cent compared with 18.5 per cent. In EC countries the comparable figures were 19.4 per cent and 17.6 per cent.

The countries reporting fewest damaged trees were Austria, France, Romania, Spain and the former Yugoslavia. The worst affected besides Britain were Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Russia. Defoliation in coniferous forests was particularly high in Eastern Europe: among broadleaves, beech in Denmark and birch in Sweden were badly affected.

Some Mediterranean countries, notably Greece and Spain, reported destruction and degradation from fires and drought.

The most important probable causes of defoliation were reported as adverse weather conditions, insects, fungi, fire and air pollution. Particular attention had been paid to the effects of air pollution, but only little direct impact from known sources was reported.

Some countries considered air pollution as the essential factor destabilising forest health. But the majority regarded it as a factor leading to the weakening of forest ecosystems.

"The results of the transnational survey, however, show

As the United Nations reports on defoliation, John Young looks for the roots of increasing rates of tree decline



Turning a new leaf: a rare example of Pride of India, found on industrial wasteland in Brent, has its vital statistics entered into a data bank by Nick Mottram for a tree survey of the 33 London boroughs

a clear trend: a continuing overall deterioration of vitality," the report says. That trend cannot be readily explained by temporary climatic or regional factors. The continuing impact of air pollution was one possible explanation.

"It is indispensable for both scientific and political reasons to continue the transnational survey of forest condition in years to come," it adds. The collection of annual data was vital for understanding the dynamics of forests. Sulphur dioxide, ammonia and nitrogen oxide could all be important factors.

Liverpool parades in Midlands

By PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE on Merseyside : busing witnesses and bias suspects to identify parades 100 miles away in Birmingham because the local black population is refusing to provide volunteers for line-ups.

Lingering resentment against the police after 10 years ago is one reason, says Anthony Turner, who organises the parades at Ladywell police station in Birmingham. "Police in Liverpool black community do not fit as many people willing to help them, so they often have to count on Birmingham where black parade is needed."

The West Midlands force one of four in England to use volunteers recruited through the Alfred Mar agency. Each receives £8.

Inspector Terry Hill, Toxteth, said: "We have smaller black population than Birmingham and it was difficult to find people who did not know everybody else. We simply couldn't find strangers."

One of Merseyside's difficulties was that each of seven divisions organised its own parades and could not call on others for help, meaning that Toxteth frequently ran out of volunteers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain to host mind olympics

Britain is to host the first Mind Sports Olympiad, featuring more than 35 mental sports including chess, draughts, bridge and poker. Medals will be awarded and it is hoped that 15,000 people will take part. Computer technology will be used to make the games visible when the two-week event is held on the estate of Lord Brockton near Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Exponents of mental sports have pledged their support for the games, including the former world chess champion Boris Spassky.

Shears death

Philip Hodges, 36, from Howfale near Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, died from a neck wound after he slipped while cutting his hedge and fell on his shears.

Hippies held

Police arrested 12 New Age travellers in a raid on a camp at Thornbank Place, Bath, Avon, yesterday. They seized money, imitation firearms and suspicious substances.

Police HQ raid

Police at Ripley, Derbyshire, are investigating a theft at their headquarters when raiders cut through the fence of the compound and stole the wheels from a car.

Libel alleged

Alfred and Paul Reichmann, heads of the property firm Olympia & York, have issued a libel writ in the High Court in London against the publishers of *Squire*, its editor Rosie Boyton and Leo Heaps, a journalist.

Dublin halted

Traffic in Dublin stopped when taxi drivers blocked streets in protest at the granting of cheaper licences to hackney cab operators.

Bar upheld on claims by Opren patients

HUNDREDS of alleged victims of the banned arthritis drug Opren had their hopes of claiming compensation dashed in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

In a test case ruling, judges decided that 13 out of a total of 16 representative claimants were barred from seeking damages against the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly because their actions were launched too late.

The claimants, mostly elderly arthritis sufferers, allege that they suffered long-term or permanent side effects as a result of taking Opren, which was withdrawn worldwide in the summer of 1982. Its side effects included persistent photosensitivity, a severe and often painful reaction of the skin to sunlight.

The claimants involved in yesterday's ruling were representative of hundreds. All launched their actions too late to share in a £2.2 million out-of-court settlement paid to 1,200 people by Eli Lilly in 1987.

In a 150-page judgment, Lord Justice Purchas, sitting with Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Mann, dismissed appeals by 13 claimants against rulings by Mr Justice Hadden in January 1991 and March 1992 that their claims were "statute barred" under the 1980 Limitation Act, which lays down strict time limits for starting civil actions.

People wishing to sue for damages for personal injuries have three years to start an action, beginning from the time when they first became aware of their injury to justify launching a claim.

However, the appeal judges ruled that three of the 16 claimants should be allowed to pursue their damages claims. Their lawyers will now study the appeal judges' findings and decide if any other claims can be considered.

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Get a little extra help.

Writer demands law change to save pit bull

THE television comedy writer Carla Lane demanded a change in the Dangerous Dogs Act yesterday after a judge said that he had no power to lift an order to destroy an American pit bull terrier.

Ms Lane, 57, was at Isleworth Crown Court, west London, to support Mark Cichon, a dog owner, in his appeal against the order imposed for removing the dog's muzzle in public when it became ill. The order was stayed to allow an appeal to the High Court.

Speaking outside the court, Ms Lane, who runs a charity called Animaline, said that the act was insane. "The government built it in a day out of total panic... it was not properly thought out, but politicians don't like to admit they have got it wrong."

She said that the act made a death sentence obligatory, and called for magistrates to be allowed to weigh each case on its merits.

top on this," she said. "Murderers get bail and yet this dog doesn't even get to see its home again."

The court was told that Cichon, 25, was walking Dempsey, his aunt's dog, in Ealing, west London, last April when it began coughing. He removed its muzzle and it vomited. He was seen by police, and was fined £50 by magistrates last month for having the dog unmuzzled in a public place. The magistrates also ordered the dog's destruction.

Chris Tehrani, for the dog's owner, Dianne Fanneran, said that the matter should be returned to the lower court to be reheard with a plea of not guilty. Judge Evans refused his application and Mr Tehrani then appealed against Cichon's sentence, arguing that the £100 penalty was inappropriate. The judge substituted a 12-month conditional discharge.

Ms Lane said that the act was insane. "The government built it in a day out of total panic... it was not properly thought out, but politicians don't like to admit they have got it wrong."

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Somali warlords hoard weapons as US airlift begins

TWO United Nations military observers were wounded yesterday, one seriously, when Somali faction fighters attacked their unarmed vehicle in Mogadishu, UN sources and witnesses said.

Several vehicles converged on the UN car in the southern sector of the divided city, controlled by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, and opened fire. An Egyptian colonel was shot in the chest at close range and after treatment was expected to be evacuated.

The attack coincided with a fresh explosion of violence and looting at Mogadishu port, where relief supplies were being unloaded, and with the United States beginning its airlift of food to the Somali interior with flights from Kenya to Belet Huen.

Dozens of Somali volunteers rushed to unload 100lb sacks of rice and beans donated by Canada and the European Community from the American military transport planes. Four Hercules planes landed in half-hour intervals on the gravel airstrip in this desert town about 250 miles north of Mogadishu. It was once a prosperous agricultural town on the Shebele river, but now 150,000 people are almost entirely dependent of handouts to survive.

Marine Brigadier-General Frank Libutti, commander of the American "Operation Provide Relief", called the first day's flights a success. "So far, so good," he declared.

The arrival of a Hercules is nothing new in Belet Huen. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been

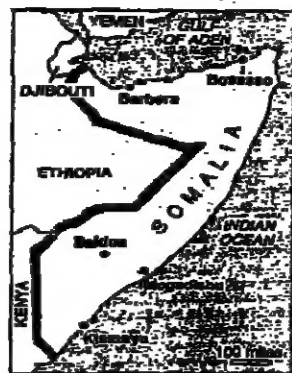
Feuding groups are taking advantage of international relief operations to acquire sophisticated weaponry, Sam Kiley writes from Belet Huen

flying food on three flights everyday for three months and Save the Children receives regular supplies. "You are the real heroes of this tragedy," General Libutti, told Fiona O'Riley, an Irish nurse working for the Save the Children, who has been in Somalia for six months.

Meanwhile, Somalia's feuding warlords, fearful that their supplies of weapons and ammunition may run out, have in the past few weeks sent arms buyers in search of weapons. Senior Western diplomats in Nigeria and Russia

have encountered members of General Aidid's United Somali Congress looking for arms salesmen in an attempt to break the United Nations embargo on the sale of weapons to Somalia.

An attempt by one, unnamed, faction to buy sophisticated weaponry from Armscorp, the South African arms manufacturer, was foiled by Pretoria, but British-made 84mm anti-tank rocket launchers and ammunition originally supplied to the Kenyan government have found their way to Somalia. The



United Somali Congress, which holds the chair of the newly-formed Somali National Alliance, an alliance with three other groups, says that the Kenyan weapons were used by the ousted

president, Mohamed Siad Barre, who fled into exile in Nigeria three months ago.

"It seems incredible that anyone is trying to get arms into Somalia," said a Western ambassador in Nairobi. "At the moment there is very little fighting and security is improving, but if more guns go in then it's inevitable that some kind of final assault may be launched. That would add to the catastrophe."

While the United Somali Congress relies on a simple quadrangle of trade to obtain arms, other less powerful groups rely on profits from the importation of khat, the narcotic stimulant consumed by most Somali males over the age of 12. Osman Hassan Ali, the Congress's "minister for humanitarian affairs", is the adviser to General Aidid.

A successful businessman overseas, he has cornered the import trade in khat and fuel to Somalia and hires out of armed guards to the aid agencies. The International Committee of the Red Cross spends \$50,000 (£25,000) a month on armed protection in Mogadishu alone; across the wide areas of the country controlled by General Aidid's forces the total figure must be close to \$200,000 a month.

The European Community has contracted Osman to deliver diesel to the water pumping stations which supply Mogadishu, rather than have them looted. As part of the multimillion-dollar contract, he only gets paid for each litre burned by each pump: none goes missing. Osman also controls the importation of fuel to Kismayu.

Another steady flow of money comes from the khat trade. Sixteen light aircraft each day land in the airport west of Mogadishu controlled by General Aidid's forces, each carrying at least \$3,000 worth of the bitter-privet-like leaves.

In the north of the country, control led by acting President Ali Mahdi Mohammed, General Aidid's arch rival, eight planes land each day. Another eight come in every day to Kismayu, dominated by the Somali Patriotic Front under General Omar Jess, once an enemy of both President Barre and General Aidid. The total khat trade is worth at least \$1 million a month, and some experts say that the figure could be nearer to \$5 million.

Letters, page 13

Baghdad may bar UN weapons team

Rabin warns Saddam against Scud attacks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, delivered a thinly veiled warning to Baghdad yesterday that his government will retaliate against Iraqi cities if President Saddam Hussein fires Scud missiles at Israel again.

Speaking in an interview with the *Haaretz* newspaper, Mr Rabin tried to soothe growing fears that Israel could again be dragged into a conflict with Baghdad if the imposition by the West of a "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq brings renewed fighting. During the Gulf war 18 months ago, Israel, under pressure from America to stay

out of the conflict, did not respond when Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at its cities.

Yesterday, Mr Rabin said: "I do not believe that Iraq will fire Scud missiles at Israel. However, if it does, then Israel has a wide variety of means of action which I will not detail publicly." He admitted that his government was deliberately playing down the affair in an effort not to cause panic and hurt the summer tourism industry and the Israeli economy. As a sign of his confidence that the Israeli public will not be exposed to renewed attacks, Mr Rabin said the government had not yet begun its

distribution of new gas masks against the threat of a chemical weapons attack.

Israeli military experts are convinced that Saddam still has as many as 200 Scuds and up to ten mobile launchers. Although Iraq would have no obvious motive in attacking Israel, Moshe Arens, the former defence minister, said this week that the Iraqi leader was notoriously unpredictable.

So far Saddam has not responded to the aerial exclusion zone with anything more lethal than rhetoric. American warplanes policing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq have been dropping leaflets warning Iraqi military commanders stationed south of the 32nd parallel not to switch on their air defence radar systems. The leaflets also urge the Iraqis not to fly in the prohibited area.

The use by the Iraqis of air defence radar systems to locate allied fighters patrolling the skies over southern Iraq would be considered a provocative act, the Pentagon said yesterday. But as scores of allied warplanes enforced the ban, a potential new flashpoint loomed with the expected arrival in Baghdad early next week of a new team of United Nations weapons inspectors.

The Iraqi regime has said that it will forbid the inspectors entry into government ministries and has said since that the ban on its planes in the south may provoke a complete rethink of its willingness to co-operate with the UN in any way. Western officials have hinted strongly that any move to prevent the inspections ordered under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire could result in increased military pressure on Saddam, possibly the bombing of strategic targets in Baghdad.

In addition to the threat of non-co-operation with the inspectors, the Iraqi government has also said that, in the light of the no-fly zone, it was not expecting to resume talks on renewing the agreement permitting United Nations guards that broke off last week. "We are damned if we do co-operate and damned if we do not," a Baghdad official said. "Practically, we lose nothing by reconsidering these matters."

In the event of an attack on Israel, Mr Rabin made clear that the new Labour-led government would retaliate. Avihu Bin-Nun, the officer who commanded Israel's air force during the Gulf war, was even more specific. "If even one missile hits Israel, this time there is no one who can stop Israel from retaliating fully against Iraq. Saddam knows this very well."

Additional reporting by Jamie Dettmer in Washington



Campaign joys: President Bush reaching out to Nicholas Fazekas, ten weeks during a Republican rally in Cincinnati, Ohio. The White House said yesterday that Mr Bush had cancelled a weekend break and campaign trips planned for the early part of next week

in order to monitor relief efforts in Florida (Jamie Dettmer writes from Washington). Mr Bush has faced increasing criticism for allegedly responding sluggishly to the recent hurricane, although Andrew Card, the transport secretary, who is heading a

federal task force overseeing relief operations in Florida, defended Mr Bush from the attacks yesterday. As the magnitude of the disaster sank in, campaign managers have been quick to realise that more than words are needed from the president.

Britain's report led to Pretoria police purge

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A BRITISH expert on policing recommended in a confidential report to the South African government that the general staff of the South African police should be dismantled "like redundant ballistic missiles" as part of the political settlement, it was reported yesterday.

The Johannesburg paper, *Weekly Mail*, said the report by Peter Waddington, director of criminal justice studies at Reading University, was handed to the government a month ago. He was brought to South Africa two months ago

to investigate how the police responded to the Boipatong killings. Herius Kriel, the law and order minister, detailed a reorganisation of the police force on Thursday. Yesterday it was claimed that Mr Kriel's announcement was not so much a rationalisation programme as a positive response by the government to Mr Waddington's report.

Mr Waddington said a South African human rights group said that 6,200 people had been killed and 11,900 wounded in the past two years of township violence. (Reuters)

China tells Patten not to alter colony deal

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

CHINA has threatened to dissolve the Hong Kong legislature and hold elections when it takes control of the colony in 1997 if Britain tries to introduce more democracy than laid out in the agreed post-handover mini-constitution.

In the most explicit warning yet to Britain not to abandon the principle of "convergence" with the Basic Law, Lu Ping, the director of the Hong Kong and Macau affairs office, said China was not prepared to discuss any big changes to the political deal agreed in 1990. Mr Lu's statement came as

Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, announced he would make his first visit to Peking on October 12 for talks with the Chinese leadership.

Mr Patten has refused to say whether he will try to increase the number of directly elected seats in the 60-member legislature or make other proposals for a faster pace of democratic development when he makes his first key policy speech on October 7. During his China visit, however, he will attempt to break the deadlock over the financing of Hong Kong's costly new airport project.

Christians in Lebanon stage strike

Beirut: Church bells tolled and black flags fluttered in Christian Lebanon areas yesterday as the first day of a three-day general strike was observed in protest against the second phase of Lebanon's parliamentary elections. (AP)

Two ministers and the House Speaker have resigned, saying that the first phase of the elections was rigged. Christian factions called for the strike, the second in under a week, and a "three-day mourning period for slaughtered democracy". They demanded the cancellation of last Sunday's voting and the postponement of the remaining two phases, planned for the next two Sundays, until after Syria withdraws from Lebanon.

Life came to a standstill in Christian east Beirut, the Kisevan region north of the capital as well as in towns in the Metn mountains. The Maronite patriarch, Nasrallah Sfar, urged the Lebanese to organise a civil disobedience campaign and to take up "negative resistance" to foil government attempts to turn Lebanon into a Syrian protectorate.

Gag removed

Canberra: The Australian High Court has rejected the Labor government's ban on paid political advertising on radio and television during elections. The ban was to top a drain on funds and check secret donations. (Reuters)

Fahd relents

Amman: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has sent a get-well message to King Husayn of Jordan, who is recovering from a kidney operation, in the first friendly gesture since their relations deteriorated during the Gulf war. (AP)

March for aid

San Salvador: Hundreds of former army soldiers and guerrillas marched and handed in El Salvador's 12-year civil war marchers together through the capital to demand a financial and medical aid package. (Reuters)

Bomb alert

London: The Foreign Office advised Britons against travelling to Algeria after a bomb killed nine people and injured 128 at Algiers airport. It told resident Britons to keep away from densely populated areas in the country. (Reuters)

Five told to go

Phnom Penh: Khmer Rouge guerrillas in eastern Cambodia detained five UN peacekeepers before releasing them with a warning not to return. The five — police officers and two election officials — were stopped on Sunday. (AFP)

Boat seized

Suva: A stranded Russian fishing vessel, the *Akademik Kriylovich*, was seized by court officials in this Fijian port after claims by the crew of 56 crew that they had not been paid since December. (AFP)

Officer taken

Nairobi: Soldiers and police have kidnapped El Mocar Incha, the provincial commissioner of Agadez in northeast Niger, after the murder of a police inspector by suspected Tuareg rebels. (AFP)

Tunnel of love

Sydney: A radio station has offered a cash prize and a holiday to the first couple to have intercourse in Sydney harbour's new mad tunnel, which

Tunis court jails 200 militants

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN TUNIS

ONE of the largest mass trials of Islamic fundamentalists in north Africa in years ended yesterday with the conviction of almost 200 Tunisians for plotting to take power by force. The militants were arrested over the past two years as part of a clampdown on Tunisia's banned Islamic fundamentalist Ennahda movement.

According to the authorities, the militants were planning a series of terrorist acts to destabilise the state and install an Islamic republic. One alleged plot was to assassinate President Ben Ali.

After 18 hours of deliberations, a military court sentenced 35 leading members of Ennahda, to life imprisonment. They include the movement's exiled leader, Rachid Ghannouchi, presently living in Britain where he has applied for political asylum.

The other defendants, all supporters of Ennahda, received prison terms from one to 24 years. Nine were acquitted. The sentences are much lighter than expected as the prosecution had called for the death penalty for 19 of the defendants, including Mr Ghannouchi.

The trial was closely followed by other north African countries threatened by growing fundamentalist movements. International human rights groups expressed concern that civilians were being tried by a military court. A second trial of more than 100 Tunisian militants is due to end today.

Kuwaitis to vote in October

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

KUWAIT's long-delayed parliamentary elections, the first in seven years, are to be held on October 5 after a decision by the Council of Ministers.

Kuwait's state-run news agency said yesterday that the date was set during an emergency session and referred to Emir Shaikh Jaber al-Sabah, the country's ruler, for approval. The emir is regarded as a reluctant democrat by most opposition figures. There had been fears that he might use this week's imposition of an air exclusion zone over southern Iraq as an excuse to delay further the elections which he had pledged when he was in exile in Saudi Arabia during the Iraqi occupation of his country.

Western diplomats have done little to hide their disappointment that the election was not held more swiftly after the defeat of the invading Iraqi forces. The last parliament was suspended in 1986 and in the months before Iraq's invasion in August, 1990, pro-democracy demonstrations were broken up by police using tear gas.

Western hopes that women might be given the vote as a result of the Gulf war and Western-led liberation have been dashed. The electorate for the 50-seat legislature will be restricted to an estimated 92,000 registered male voters out of a total population of 650,000. Only males over 21 who can trace their ancestry back to 1920 have the franchise.

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Oedipus finds himself in the mother of all jams

IN what may be the perfect literary form for the 1990s, a Los Angeles writer has just produced a book that re-tells a variety of well known tales using a selection of the million or so personalised car number plates that are registered in the Greater Los Angeles area.

Following in the tradition of Georges Perec, who wrote his novel *La Disparition* without using the letter "e", Daniel Nussbaum has compiled *Literary License*, which re-tells such classics as the Book of Genesis, Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Dr Alex Comfort's *The Joy of Sex* using a selection of licence plates and adding only punctuation. By Los Angeles law, no personalised number plate can be longer than seven letters.

Here is Mr Nussbaum's version of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, a rendering one might read in a really spectacular Los Angeles traffic jam:
ONCEPON ATIME LONG AGO IN THEBES UNKING, OEDIPUS DAKING LVMYMS. LVMYKDS, THEBES THINK OEDDY. ISONI NODORS, KAY MAYRE

A Los Angeles writer has taken literary licence literally, writes Ben Macintyre

THEREZZ ILTLI, MOTHER WHERERU? WHEREAT MYDAD! NOCALLZ NEVER. HAVENOT ACUE, INMYMND IWNDER WHOAM? IMUST FINDEM.
JO MYWIFE GOES: "OED DONT USE? WERHAPPY NOW LETTIBE." IGO: "NOWAY. IAMBOS. DONTU TELME MYLIFE. I NEED MYMOM. II WILL FINDHER. FIND BOTHOF THEM."

SOI START SEEKING DATRUTH ABOUT WHO IAM. ITGOEZ ULTRAAS SLOWE. THE SPHYNKS RIDDLE WAS ACINCH BUT NOTTHIZ. SUDNLEE WEHEAR SHOCKING NEWS. WHEN IWASA TINYI THISGRS ASER SED

IWOOD OFF MY ROYAL OLDMAN THEN MARREE MYMAMA. SICKO RUBBISH. NESTPAS? WHOWHO COUDRE SOGONE? STIL MOMNDAD SENT MEEEEE AWAY. MEE ABABI AWAAAAY.

NOWWWW GETTHIZ. MANY MOONS GOBY. I MEET THISGUY ONATRIP. WEDDO RUMBLE. WHOKNEW? ILEFTMY POP ONE DEDMAN.

UGET DAFOTO. MAIR TSURIS. JOJO MYHONEE, MYSQEEZ, MYLAMY, MIAMOR. MYCUEE, JOJOY IZZ MYMOMMY. YEGODES WHYMEE? YMEYMEY LIFSUX. IAMBADD, IAMBADD, IMSOBOD. STOPNOW THIS HEDAKE. THIS FLESH DUZ STINK. ITZ 2MUCH PAYNE 4ONEZC. TAKEGOD MYEYES! AIEEEE!

A spokesman for the California Motor Vehicles Bureau said he had not read *Literary License* or *Oedipus Rex*. "I hope he has not found anything, you know, not kosher," he said. "Plates with sex or violence in them are illegal."

سكنا عن الامم

150

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

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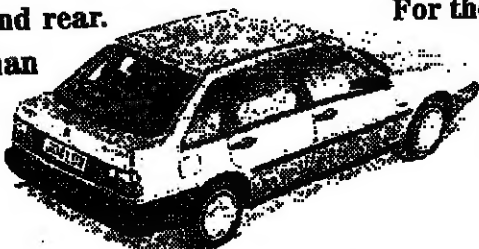
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Relentless artillery barrage takes toll on spirit of civilians

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN SARAJEVO

IN THE Holiday Inn yesterday one of the staff broke down. He screamed, cried out in pain and pleaded that the hotel's lights be turned off to avoid the heavy artillery shells thumping down around the building. His pleas echoed painfully through the hotel's anteroom. His colleagues tried to comfort him.

In most parts of the world the battle for Sarajevo has been described as a war. Here, it is called one of the twentieth century's greatest attempts at mass terrorism. There is little logic in attacks on Sarajevo. The Bosnians fire light mortar. The Serbs reply with shells that scream over the city's buildings at night. There can be only one purpose: to break the resistance of a population suffering from shell shock.

Sarajevo's inhabitants are clinging to what they have. The more they are bombed, the more they cling to the banalities of life. Shock and boredom force them onto the streets only to become victims of snipers who will shoot a child willingly, perhaps more willingly than a soldier. A soldier, after all, would fight back. The suffering here is matched only by the cowardice of these cruel attacks.

Ilidze has a somewhat unusual claim to fame: it is the world's most dangerous suburb, an honour it shares with its sister district, Dobrinja. Both ring the burnt-out and desolate no-man's-land which rings the city's airport. Shells thump down on this Serb enclave sited between three Muslim-controlled territories. Snipers work overtime here, picking off people.

In the past three days Ilidze has been the site for some of the heaviest fighting as Bosnian fighters try to lift the siege of their city. The suburb is strategically vital, it carries the road to Split, which, if opened, could bring troops, guns and food to Sarajevo. Checkpoints and landmines are sprinkled along the road: burnt-out and rusting cars, lorries and coaches dot the main road out of the city. Yesterday, some of the tower blocks lining the route were still ablaze after the attacks of the past 24 hours.

BATTLE FOR SARAJEVO

One had collapsed under the weight of the bombardment.

However, even here people still live, although in the most precarious of circumstances. A handful of Serbs had used a lull in the fighting — it never stops altogether, but the target might move a mile up the road — to read the lists of the dead from Ilidze which were pinned to an oak tree and stuck with sticky tape on the side of a telephone booth. All had heard about the London conference agreement although for obvious reasons, they did not have time to discuss it on the streets. Time is not money here, it is life. "They were shelling all night here and all yesterday as well. I support the London conference deal just as long as it brings peace," said Andjelka Njeko, 36.

One of the main problems which will plague any proposed deal would be control of the legion of freelance fighting groups and individual killers. Obrad Popadic, Ilidze's commander, said his troops were

to hand back territory to the Bosnian government. "We Serbs have lived here for centuries and we control it now, why should we give it up?" one asked. Regardless of the results of the London conference, these Serbs seem to be playing a waiting game. They control the land and the blockade around Sarajevo is — more or less — complete. The shelling of the city hurts not them but the Bosnian Muslim civilians. They also know that, should push come to shove, they could destroy the city at an even faster rate if they chose. "In a very short time we could take a major part of that city," the commander said.

Sarajevo's factions and freelance killers celebrated yesterday the success of the London conference by bombing several areas of the city and the United Nations headquarters. A dozen shells flew past my hotel. As the fighting continued in Sarajevo, Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, said in London that a new evenhandedness in the agreement reached there on Thursday could lead to peace.

"It is too early to say if the London conference is going to make a change," said Cedric Thornberry, the senior UN civilian officer in former Yugoslavia. Mr Thornberry was speaking yesterday at a press conference at the UN building in Sarajevo about the London deal. Although information about the shelling and details of the attacks around Sarajevo was well documented, he said, what was lacking was any willingness on the part of those forces to allow UN monitors to observe artillery positions.

The Egyptian general in charge of UN troops here declared that his intention remained to "concentrate heavy weapons in areas to be monitored by the United Nations." There is a concentration of artillery already in Sarajevo, not in UN areas but in Bosnian buildings. The Serb forces seem to have moved from sporadic shelling to planned bombing.



Karadzic accord could lead to Bosnia peace

under disciplined control and claimed that they would follow the instructions laid down by their political leaders. "I'm a soldier, I will obey my commanders," he said.

Some of his soldiers serving on one of the frontlines around the airport disagreed, saying that they would refuse

Leading article, page 13



Moment's peace: a family peering round their door in Sarajevo during a break in mortar fire yesterday. At least 45 people died in the city in the previous 24 hours

Peace on paper will not deter Balkan gunmen

The London peace plan is unlikely to succeed because of reluctance to use force to impose it, Roger Boyes, East Europe correspondent, writes

The peace plan for former Yugoslavia worked out in London this week is unlikely to end or even reduce the fighting in the Balkans in the near future. The best that can be hoped for is that a few lives will be saved while the various warring adjust their political positions and realign their telescopic sights.

The reason is simple: a "code of conduct" cannot be imposed on a war in motion. It is like trying to teach the rules of cricket to a group of Mafia dons.

The central weakness of the conference was clear from the beginning. Since neither the United States nor the Europeans are prepared to threaten military intervention, there is no way of enforcing the plan. The London conference has not even come up with a mechanism of enforcement. Instead, a Geneva-based standing committee will, according to John Major, " cajole, negotiate and pressure". That has not worked so far.

Some of the problems associated with the London plan stem from this unwillingness to use military force. Others are the result of fluid politics, especially in Serbia, and the practical restraints placed on international organisations acting in domestic conflicts. Here then are the chief stumbling blocks to the implementation of the London plan:

□ The prison camps are to be closed down, but neither the Red Cross nor the United Nations agencies have the resources to take over 150,000 released prisoners. The best that can be done is to transport them to Croatia, which is already overwhelmed with refugees, or to the West. Either way, the international community would then have contributed to "ethnic cleansing".

□ Increasing the UN and armed European presence to protect relief efforts will not have a significant impact until UN officers are given greater individual powers. The impotence of the UN is seen daily in Sarajevo as blue-helmeted soldiers stand by as housewives are gunned down.

□ The UN force not only has to be reinforced but also given a human rights monitoring role. If it hears of an ethnic cleansing operation in progress, it must have the power to intervene.

□ Serbia has agreed to si-

lence its heavy guns but only because it has gained the territory it wanted. Now the Bosnian Muslims are likely to fight back and Serbia will portray itself as a victim — and the killing will resume.

The power of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, appears to be on the wane, while that of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, is increasing. There will thus be domestic pressure on Mr Milosevic to formalise a carve-up of Bosnia. While the London speeches concentrated on "the norms of civilised behaviour", the Serbs and the Croats may have been quietly cementing a deal at Bosnia's expense. This will emerge soon.

□ The decision to tighten sanctions against Serbia should have been accompanied by an intelligent, uniform policy towards Belgrade. Since all members of the European Community and the United States oppose the idea of a Greater Serbia, ministers should have devised a way of splitting its most fundamental component, the alliance between Serbia and Montenegro. More active diplomacy is needed to encourage Montenegro to seek a separate road out of the crisis. And, the Belgrade opposition should have been given some encouragement by the London peacemakers; it is crucial to ensure that Mr Milosevic's successors are pro-Western and firmly against military expansionism. Western policy towards Serbia is too passive; to isolate Mr Milosevic is not in itself sufficient.

□ The conference failed to provide an adequate safeguard for Kosovo, the unhappy Serb-dominated province of mainly ethnic Albanians.

Few expected the London session to produce miracles. Its main accomplishment will probably have been to communicate the West's sense of impatience and outrage to the rather insular Serbian leadership. Until now the Belgrade regime has been convinced that a small group of Western countries, with Germany in the vanguard, is influencing an otherwise indifferent world community. That impression must now have been dispelled and the hope — still very slender — is that the Serbs will soon make a rapid policy shift and open the way for peace.



Washington failed to heed Bosnia defender

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

THE State Department's former acting chief of Yugoslav affairs said yesterday he resigned to protest against the lack of US intervention in the former Yugoslavia.

George Kenney said he believed the US should arm Bosnians, provide air cover to stop Serbian air attacks and destroy Serbian heavy weapons. He resigned on Tuesday after four years at the State Department and a month in his latest position.

He said his efforts to convince the department to take a firmer stance against the Serbs' siege of Bosnia were frustrated by an administration that did not want to get involved in the Yugoslav conflict. "The Bosnians are really the poor innocents who got mugged," Mr Kenney said. "What we could do, what we should do, is arm the Bosnians, allow them to defend themselves, allow them to protect their remaining territory and allow them to try to recover territory which has been forcibly taken from them."

Mr Kenney discounted the results of the two-day peace

US POLICY

conference in London this week which world leaders hailed as a breakthrough in the war which has killed nearly 9,000 people in Bosnia. "The conference has in effect given the Serbs a green light to finish what they are doing."

He said that in the absence of world sanctions it was doubtful that Serbs would honour the peace agreement or their promise to turn over heavy artillery within a week. Early reports from Sarajevo showed that warring factions had paid scant attention to the talks and were continuing to exchange fire.

Based on information he received over the past few months, Mr Kenney said there was no doubt in his mind that Serbian forces were responsible for the conflict.

One of Mr Kenney's biggest disagreements with senior officials was their reluctance to consider credible reports by the media and refugees of the situation in Bosnia and their refusal to send in US observers to investigate.

Tragic village bids civilisation goodbye

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN HRITKOVI, VOJVODINA

HRITKOVI, sprawling in the fertile plain of Srem, vividly demonstrates the Yugoslav tragedy. Until a few months ago it had a population of 3,500 with Croats in the majority. Mixed marriages were commonplace. People had lived there peacefully for more than 300 years.

But the arrival three months ago of Vojislav Seselj, the leader of the Serb extremist Radical party, brought an end to harmony. Since then, armed squads of young men, mainly Serb refugees from Croatia, have been terrorising the population, particularly the Croats, ordering them to leave or face death.

Today most Croats have moved out. The few, mainly old people who remain, are

thousand Serb refugees have arrived from western Slavonia in Croatia, where their homes were destroyed. Recently Bosnians have arrived in search of refuge.

Ostoja Sibincic, the village leader, whose arrest was ordered this week by the rump federal government of Milan Panic as part of moves to stamp out "ethnic cleansing", is regarded by the refugees as a good man who has helped them. They are threatening to hold a protest rally tomorrow unless Mr Sibincic is released.

The Catholic church is closed. So is the priest's house. Local people who did not want to be identified said that two months ago armed men entered the church during Mass and sat at the back chattering

prayed. The school director said threats to Croat and Hungarian children were received daily.

The Serbs wanted to change the village name to Sreboslavci (Serb Glory). The name Hritkovi was first registered in the 15th century and appeared on the map in 1714. A professor whose family has lived there for 300 years said: "We do not know whether it is of Serb, Croat or even Albanian origin. But for a civilised people at the end of this century, this should be irrelevant. The culture is created on foundations and not on ruins."

An old man pushing a bicycle stopped to say that he had moved into an empty house "temporarily". He did

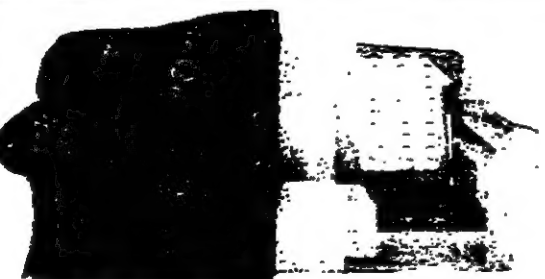
Croatia had been burned down. He found the local population — Serb, Croat and Hungarian — hostile. "I say hello on the street and they look at me with contempt. No one respects us or helps us. Sibincic is a bit rough but he has been good to us," he said.

Branka, the village hairdresser, is a Croat married to a Serb and both families have lived there for centuries. "Everybody is frightened to talk. We used to live happily together. We could never even imagine that someone will split us apart and that it will become important who is of what nationality," she said.

She is curling the hair of a young woman. Mirna came from Rijeka, an Adriatic port in Croatia. She is a Serb but she says proudly: "I am different from those in Bosnia. I was brought up on Western

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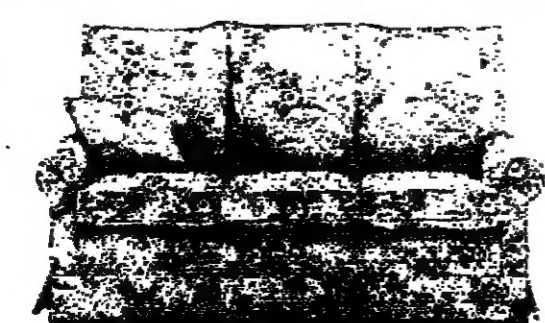
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سكنى من الارض

French rebuff of treaty could derail Mitterrand's European ambitions

Maastricht rebels seize six-point lead

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN PARIS

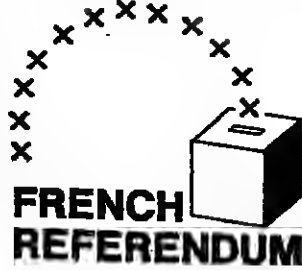
FRENCH opponents of the Maastricht treaty were drawing ahead last night in the referendum campaign on ratification of the treaty and political union in the European Community. An opinion poll released in Paris showed the "no" campaigners on 53 per cent to the government-led "yes" campaign's 47 per cent. Defeat in the ballot in three weeks would doom the treaty.

Five opinion polls earlier this week showed support for the treaty in decline. The latest, of 804 people, was reported yesterday by *Le Parisien*. The recent surge of support for the treaty's critics is an astonishing reversal and President Mitterrand must now confront the real threat of an unprecedented rebuff over his government's European policy.

The Maastricht treaty, a monument to a new Europe sculpted with care by the Community's leaders, turns out to have lost its lustre. Only a handful of peripheral governments have ratified it without fuss. In Copenhagen, London and Paris, politicians have lost their ability to predict or persuade voters. In other capitals, pressure to rewrite it is building up. Hesitations in Britain or Denmark could be written off as the traditional reluctance of two European latecomers. But the astonishing possibility that the French people may stop the treaty in its tracks on September 20 discloses a worry that runs far deeper.

French presidents consider themselves the drivers of the European train. The common agricultural policy has been, as Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, once put it, the "green petrol" of the country's economy. The "French soul" will not refuse Maastricht, one French minister said recently.

Britons traditionally have found such French superiority infuriating. Now, watching France's lofty government ministers in the midst to avoid a national humiliation must be giving John Major and Douglas Hurd a rare and



FRENCH REFERENDUM

delicious moment of Schadenfreude.

Postwar France saw the creation of the European Community as the best way since Napoleon to shape the Continent to its own design. Despite its postwar recovery, Germany was guilt-ridden, Britain was losing an empire and had not yet found another role. Stalin sliced Europe in half, leaving a Western side small enough for France to feel secure in its prestige and influence in the six-strong EC of the 1950s and 1960s.

For three decades the French political class could afford to be ambivalent about what its members call *la construction Européenne*. Some sovereignty was given up and parts of the economy were opened to foreign competition. But that was a bearable price for the resuscitation of the French state and for confining the reborn West Germany in a web of common interests.

French governments did not have to decide between Europe and France: they could have both at the same time. Ambiguous European policy drove up the odd-cold-sac. In 1954, the French national assembly was asked to ratify a treaty establishing a European (essentially Franco-German) army. Then as now, the debate split political parties.

M. Mitterrand, the rising young socialist star who was minister of the interior, abstained in the vote that destroyed the bill. Three years later he changed to the winning side to vote for the Treaty of Rome that established the EC. Roland Dumas, his ally,

voted against. M. Dumas has travelled a long way since those days. He is now foreign minister and busily recruiting opera stars for the "yes" campaign's grand pre-referendum gala concert.

He and M. Mitterrand are pushing the worn-out analogy between the EC and a bicycle: if the Community does not keep moving, it falls over. If integration is not tightened, Germany will dominate Europe. France, government ministers say, will be alone in a diplomatic wilderness.

German unification, the creation of the single market and uncontrolled immigration have the French worried. The years since 1989 have seen a national "psychosis" of anxiety, M. Mitterrand once said in an unguarded moment. Another way of putting it would be to say that, since the end of the Cold War, France has suffered a prolonged nervous breakdown.

M. Mitterrand wants to clamp Western Europe in a new treaty on political and monetary union. Germany would be locked inside and Eastern Europe would just have to wait on the doorstep. He may in the end get his majority in the referendum, but the campaign has revealed the uncertainty in many French minds over Europe.



Battle lines: Philippe Séguin, left, and Charles Pasqua launch their campaign against Maastricht. Polls indicate growing support for a "no" vote

Bardot to sue over magazine pictures

Brigitte Bardot plans to sue several publications, including the Italian magazine *Hola* and the Italian magazine *Novella 2000*, for invasion of privacy, her lawyer, Gilles Dreyfus, said.

Bardot, 57, is also suing the French weekly *Voici*, from which she is seeking £25,000 damages. The magazines published photographs in August, taken with a telephoto lens, of Bardot and a friend sailing off Saint Tropez on a yacht belonging to the French National Front leader, Jean Marie Le Pen. M. Dreyfus said Bardot was suing on two counts: alleged invasion of her privacy and violation of her right to authorise any use of pictures taken of her.

Russia plans to return art treasures seized at the end of the second world war from Germany in exchange for help in restoring St Petersburg palaces, according to the Russian minister of culture, Yevgeny Sidorov. The daily newspaper *Kurshny* said he had announced the setting up of a government commission on the return of cultural items "held illegally by Russia".

China's headline vice-president, Wang Zhen, 84, who had been reported critically ill, appeared on television after being absent from the public eye for months. State television showed him receiving

Japan's former prime minister, Kakuei Tanaka, the man who returned relations with China to normal 20 years ago.

The governing South Korean Democratic Liberal Party elected its presidential candidate, Kim Young-sam, 64, as its new leader, replacing President Roh Tae-woo.

The Italian pop singer Loredana Berté has withdrawn a complaint made to police that her husband, the former tennis star Björn Borg, failed to support her, the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* reported. Police said officers who might be able to confirm the report were not on duty.

The Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, accepted the resignation of "kingmaker" Shin Kanemaru as vice-president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Mr Kanemaru, 77, offered to resign after admitting receiving money from a firm at the heart of a scandal that could lead to more resignations.

Daniel K. Ludwig, 95, the son of a cargo ship captain who became one of the world's richest men, has died in Manhattan. He owned about 60 oceangoing vessels at the height of his shipping career.

Protesters raise fear of Rostock street riot

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AN EXTRA 3,000 riot police have been sent to Rostock in an attempt to prevent a violent clash there today between left-wing protesters and right-wing extremist thugs.

The reinforcements, doubling the strength of the force in the city, have been sent amid complaints that police failed to act firmly enough last weekend to stop skinheads attacking a refugee hostel and to prevent five nights of rioting and vandalism. Security officials fear a battle could break out during an anti-racist demonstration due to take place today, ostensibly to protest at the way in which the skinheads succeeded in forcing the authorities to evacuate the refugees from the hostel.

The left-wing protesters, who have called the demonstration, make use of such occasions to continue their long-running violent feud with the police and they are believed to be spotting for a fight. They are well prepared and have been distributing detailed maps of Rostock among anarchist groups so that those taking part know escape routes and can fix rendezvous points. By late yesterday afternoon, police in Berlin said they knew over 1,000 left-wing extremists had left the capital for Rostock, while hundreds more were believed to be arriving from many other cities.

The right-wing thugs, meanwhile, appear to have either run out of steam after five violent nights on the streets or else are regrouping for a confrontation today. Many have been collected by ambulances, too drunk to stand, while the number of arrests dropped from 146 on Wednesday night to just eight on Thursday night.

In Rostock, the state parliament met in emergency session to hear Lothar Kupfer, the interior minister, admit that the police had been poorly equipped to face the first rioting, but he denied that they had been politically motivated in allowing too much leeway to the neo-Nazi stone-throwers.



Craxi: causing strain in party

Craxi accuses judge

FROM PHILIP WILLIAMS IN ROME

BITTER attacks by Bettino Craxi, the Socialist party leader, against the magistrate leading the Milan corruption investigation are creating unrest within the party.

Signor Craxi began the assault with editorials in the party newspaper, *Avanti!*, suggesting that Antonio di Pietro was not the popular hero he was made out to be. Yesterday, he told *Panorama* magazine: "We cannot pretend not to see and not to hear what is being said about relations of friendships between Judge Di Pietro and some of the defendants."

Not everyone in the party is satisfied, however. Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment minister, said: "Even if some surprising element against Judge di Pietro were to emerge, like a rabbit from the secretary's hat, the logic of the strategy still escapes me."

Signor Craxi's latest attack came as newspapers reported the arrest of two close collaborators of his brother-in-law, former Milan mayor Paolo Pillitteri. They also reported that the Milan magistrates had ordered an investigation into the bank accounts of numerous defendants and their relatives, among them Signor Pillitteri and his wife, Rosilde Craxi.

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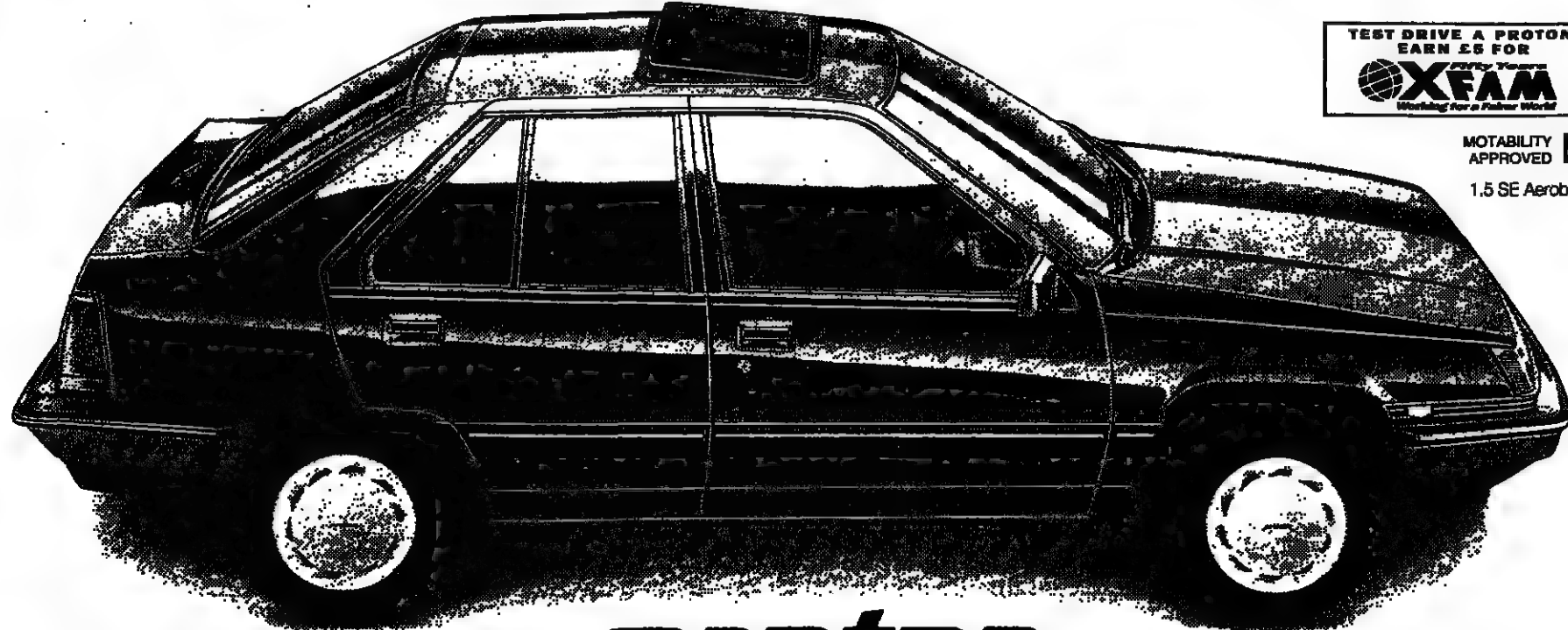
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Clifford Longley

Beware this meeting of fringe Muslim fanatics

A body calling itself the Muslim Parliament will be on the receiving end of much media attention this weekend. It will also be on the sending end. A talent for the tendentious manipulation of public relations has proved this organisation's greatest strength. Its very title is a stroke of genius, forcing even its critics to use a name which makes it sound important. The Muslim Parliament is not in any sense a representative body for Britain's Muslim population. It was founded by an extremist faction whose primary purpose is to obstruct the integration of Muslims into British society. Membership is openly for sale. It will not quote a single price, but speaks of "between £150 and £500" per member.

One of its techniques is to lead the press, and hence the public, into believing that the Muslim population is more discontented and extreme than it really is. Unfortunately, some sections of the press and public are all too ready to believe that. To take the Muslim Parliament at face value is to fall into a trap of racial and religious stereotyping, with built-in reinforcement. On this occasion it is a trap deliberately set by the apparent victims of the prejudice, for sinister purposes.

The Muslim Parliament is holding its summer meeting at Kensington town hall today and tomorrow. The publicity it receives will all be hostile, ranging from the superficial distaste of television and the quality papers to the robust hatred of the tabloids. It will stir murky Yugoslav waters, hoping to portray the plight of Bosnia as a Western Christian anti-Islamic plot. And it will portray the British Community Relations Commission in similar terms. A document to be debated at this weekend's meeting says the commission is engaged on behalf of the British government in a conspiracy to divide, rule and oppress the British Muslim community.

Religious paranoia — the view that everybody's hand is turned against British Muslims — is part of the ideology the parliament tries to promote. It is a separatist view of the world, with no shades of grey, in which those who are not Muslims are bound to be against them. There are many factions and frictions among British Muslims. Imagined conspiracies provide an easy alibi for this confusion. Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* is the most famous of these alleged conspiracies, and leaders of the Muslim Parliament describe it as a Zionist-Jewish plot against Islam.

Already the Muslim Parliament's affairs are tinged with anti-Semitism. One of Dr Kalim Siddiqui's lieutenants is Dr James Dickie, a convert Scotsman also known by his Arabic name of Yaqub Zakki, who was recently reported as saying the Nazi Holocaust did not happen and urging Muslims to support David Irving, the neo-Nazi "revisionist" historian.

These are not the views of the majority of Muslims in Britain, according to those who know them best. What the leaders of the Muslim Parliament found most useful about the Rushdie affair was the opportunity it created for fringe fanaticism to gain a foothold in the British Muslim community. In certain circumstances — of which this was one — the competitive advantage goes to the most extreme. If it is having only limited effect in Britain, that may be because the British Muslim community is disorganised and has poor internal communications.

If it is not careful, the British press will make good that deficiency, unwittingly promoting the Muslim Parliament's interests by publicising it as if it were significant and representative. The parliament is the creation of Dr Siddiqui and some of his associates at the so-called Muslim Institute in London. Dr Siddiqui is now the self-appointed mouthpiece of the headline Shia leaders of Iran, and part of his platform is the denigration of and opposition to Iran's traditional opponent in the Muslim world, Saudi Arabia. Dr Siddiqui was for a while a sub-editor on *The Guardian*, which may be where he acquired his considerable skill as an exploiter of the British media.

The Muslim Parliament does not believe in freedom of speech for others, having sworn itself Salman Rushdie's moral enemy. Hypocritically, it claims that freedom for itself. It may not be enough simply to use the word "parliament" in inverted commas, as some newspapers do, or describe the body as "non-elected". The impression given is still of a body which is more or less what it says it is. The press must learn to apply to the Muslim Parliament the same insightful restraint that it applies in reporting the affairs of, say, the National Front.

Sir Claus Moser's education commission has produced only platitudes so far, says Matthew d'Ancona

Wanted: hype and heresy

In the past few days, more than a million teenagers have received the GCSE and A-level results that will plot their future paths and carve their niches in the educational and professional marketplace. By coincidence, this red letter week for schools also marks the second anniversary of Sir Claus Moser's formidable attack on the British education system. Sir Claus, the distinguished warden of Wadham College, Oxford, then claimed that "hundreds and thousands of children have educational experiences not worthy of a civilised nation".

Should this minor milestone be a cause for celebration? Sir Claus's speech to the British Association in August 1990, an impassioned if generalised call for "an informed society" and a "Decade of Education", seemed to touch a nerve of anxiety in the British psyche, competing for days with the Gulf crisis in the pages of the press and prompting hundreds of supportive letters.

Within 36 hours, his plea for

a royal commission had been rejected by ministers. But this stance was shrewdly moderated last August by John Major, who sensed a natural ally in the battle for a classless society and so endorsed Sir Claus's unofficial National Commission on Education (NCE). Chaired by the engaging Lord Walton and funded by £1 million from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the commission has toured the country and issued a series of worthy briefing papers, notably on the skills deficit, "value-added" measurement of school performance, and education beyond 16.

All have been respectfully received and politely commented upon. Yet none has made the splash or even the ripples that might have been expected of an enterprise which began with such impetus. Two years after its conceptual birth, the national

commission has pretty well risen without trace.

Some have grumbled that commissioners such as Helena Kennedy have a politically correct axe to grind. But the true irony is that within a year of its creation, Sir Claus's troubleshooting brainchild seems to have become as inward-looking as the education establishment whose mistakes it was set up to correct.

Twice in the past six months, I have listened to senior commissioners explaining the NCE's work to high-powered audiences by taking them through the fine print of its various working groups and committees, as if the medium were the message. But who cares about the internal organisation of a body that will wind up next year? The real question is, what does it all add up to?

Topicality has been the most obvious victim of this loss of vitality. It is fair to stick to a fixed brief and a timetable, provided one keeps an eye on events. Last month's white paper, for instance, proposed a structural revolution to match the reforms of the 1944 Butler Education Act and the comprehensive programme of the 1960s, smoothing the path for all schools to become grant-maintained.

Yet on the key issue of opting out — which is perhaps the most important to face parents since 1945 — the commission has chosen, extraordinarily, to sit on the fence, murmuring that schools must decide for themselves. This, frankly, is like an ambulance man telling an injured patient to find his own way back to casualty.

Similarly, the commission's

latest briefing paper, written by the Oxford educationist A.H. Halsey, fastens promisingly upon the massive expansion of the universities and the vagueness of the government's funding plans, but trails off with the limp admission that "the shape and size of higher education... in AD 2000 is still unclear". With a shrug of the shoulders, Sir Claus's call for a prescriptive vision has given way to descriptive platitudes from all-too-familiar quarters of the education world.

More than any other area of social policy, education requires the kind of creative, independent dissent which interest groups and Downing Street advisers cannot be expected to provide. But the first year's work by the commission illustrates the dilemma that commissions (royal or otherwise) bury as many prob-

lems as they solve. What is badly needed at a time of radical change is a new blueprint, a common point of reference of the stature of the Plover Report or the Black Papers, the two demons which have vied for the soul of British education for more than two decades.

When the first of the five counter-revolutionary Black Papers was published in 1969, Ted Short, Labour's education secretary, described it as "the blackest day in British education for a century". By contrast, the NCE's pronouncements have raised barely a squeak from Whitehall or Westminster. Where is the scare, the hype, the heresy? Picking up the gauntlet cast down at Swansea two years ago, Michael Fallon, then the education minister, scoffed at the call for a commission was "the last tired throw of those whose system has already failed us". Sir Claus and his colleagues have until next year's results arrive to prove him wrong and justify the Hamlyn Foundation's million pound generosity.

Marcus Binney on his designer plan for our ugly thoroughfares

London's major thoroughfares are an architectural disgrace. With a few noble exceptions such as Piccadilly, most give the impression of one of those children's party drawings where everyone has added a bit without seeing what the last person drew. Of course Cromwell Road, Euston Road, Kensington High Street, Notting Hill and even Baker Street have good buildings, sometimes new as well as old, but usually it is the eyesores that stand out, the latest being the multi-storey human car park housing St Stephen's Hospital in Fulham Road.

The processional routes to Buckingham Palace are the greatest letdown. It is hard to imagine the Prince of Wales as king wanting to take visiting heads of state down the concrete canyon of Victoria Street.

To address this problem, English Heritage has produced a masterly townscape analysis of the Strand, highlighting eyesores and assessing the quality and contribution of every building in the street.

The irony is that behind famous thoroughfares such as the Strand, Shaftesbury Avenue and Oxford Street lie some of the most attractive and jealously protected quarters of London: Covent Garden, Soho and Mayfair. They have survived thanks to conservation area control, which has not only largely protected older buildings of value, but has increasingly ensured that new buildings are both sympathetic and imaginative.

Of course large parts of Oxford Street and the Strand are in conservation areas, but the boundaries are kinked as if to

exclude, by disdain, any ugly development or gap site. It is on precisely such sites that a sensitive guiding hand is needed when redevelopment comes. English Heritage therefore proposes designating the Strand a conservation area in its entirety, including such landmarks as the Strand Palace Hotel.

Some architects, such as Michael Manser, have gone too far. Manser, former RIBA president, will argue that too much of London is already protected. Yet since Nicholas Ridley made a bonfire of aesthetic controls, a conservation area is the one place where planning committees can insist on better quality new buildings. Some architects find this gives them leverage against clients whose overriding interest is maximum square footage at minimum price.

Conservation area controls are not enough in themselves to put damaged streets to rights. What is needed is a vision. Not one Haussmannesque vision for the whole of Central London, but a concerted approach to a number of major streets. This cannot be done by committees. When the orchestra is out of tune, what is needed is a vigorous conductor. And at present Britain is rich in first-class architects who are capable not only of designing good new buildings — adventurous, modern and sensitively contextual — but of acting as master planners and working in unison with other architects on neighbouring sites.

Playing architectural Monopoly, I would hand the Strand to Terry Farrell. With the mastery reconstruction of the grand Victorian railings in front of Charing Cross station and other nearby improvements, he has already proved that he has the keen eye and robust approach needed. To him could safely be entrusted the vexed questions of whether to allow demolition of Denys Lasdun's 1950s New South Wales House and the mighty but run-down Cecil Hotel (once the largest in London) next to the Savoy, which Shell UK is seeking to replace.



Terry Farrell: the man to redesign the Strand?



Conservation is not enough: we need master planners to guide the redevelopment of ceremonial routes like the Strand

Victoria Street is easy too. The drab department of Trade and Industry, which blights Westminster Abbey, should be replaced by Nicholas Grimshaw's Seville Expo pavilion, its astonishing waterfall facade proclaiming the adventurousness of British architecture. Most of Victoria Street, including the now dated egg-boxes framing Westminster Cathedral could go without many a tear being shed,

but it is likely to remain a modern street and Grimshaw is the man to ensure this is done with panache.

Oxford Street should be assigned to Sir Norman Foster. His design for a new office tower in Frankfurt, in which every third floor has a garden, suggests he could create the 1990s counterpart of mighty Selfridges, in which whole department stores are transparently open to the street on every floor.

To Sir Richard Rogers should go the task of making Tottenham Court Road the crowd-pulling, all singing, all dancing street of entertainment and bright lights. For Shaftesbury Avenue, the master of the revels should be Ron Herron, who flooded the Lloyds building so brilliantly. Knightsbridge and

Brompton Road require a subtle hand, but also a mastery replacement for the ghastly grey slab of Bowater House. Michael Hopkins has shown with his deft remodelling of the old *Financial Times* building that he can build boldly but sympathetically among existing buildings of strong character.

Notting Hill Gate could be approached with a lighter touch. The man to identify the genius loci and respond demurely or sensationally — but always stylishly — is Piers Gough. For Baker Street a wizard is needed, sensitive to the virtues of the few remaining Georgian houses but clever enough to respond interestingly to the anodyne blocks of Marks & Spencer and Abbey National. The answer must be Ted Cullinan, whom the National Trust chose to widespread acclaim, to tackle the delicate

task of building a visitor centre for Fountains Abbey.

In Bond Street, where the quality of existing buildings is generally high, the task of finding worthy replacements for the few poor fronts should be given to John Outram, the one man who can match the intricacy and richness of the Victorians.

Tongue in cheek? Yes, but only partly. Ten years ago, any proposal to set leading architects loose on London's streets would have created a battleground between old and new. But today fewer architects design without regard to context. A series of recent projects, the Royal Academy galleries, the new stand at Lord's cricket ground, additions to the Imperial War Museum and the transformation of Liverpool Street station, shows that architects can work imaginatively with older streets and buildings.

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

The best slang comes from America, because there are more of them manufacturing the stuff over there and they are less hidebound by obsolete linguistic etiquette. Americans are still the envied models for the world, from Japan to Nigeria, so it is smart to pick up their lingo as well as their music and junk food. We get the slang slightly wrong.

A phrase that is widely coming in, in commercial and advertising circles, is "where he is coming from", which sounds slick but puzzles the British, who are too shy to ask. This is a phrase from Black American, adopted by trendies, and all it means is what someone means, what he is getting at. Here is a writer called W.T. Tyler: "He doesn't know where this guy is coming from." I think it is just a street slang metaphor, and related to the cognate "where he is at", which means someone's essential nature, current value system, attitudes, and all that stuff. Here's *The New York Times*: "It might make sense in evaluating where you are all at." And *Rolling Stone*: "Everything from Woodie Guthrie to the country blues. That's where I'm at."

It is still showing off for a Brit to use such phrases. But if she is going to, she should try to use them roughly in their native sense, if she wants to keep her dignity unscathed. Both phrases have hints of Californian psychobabble.

Another piece of American slang that is rolling around

Britain, bouncing off conversations and pieces in the papers like a ball-bearing in a pinball machine, is "off the wall". It is the slang of the week. It is rare to meet it used correctly.

This is because it has two separate meanings in the States. In the first instance it means unusual or outrageous, as in "his off-the-wall sense of humour", and carries the same implications as oddball and off-beat. Somebody, who sounds like a melancholy existentialist, wrote of "the totally off-the-wall absurdity of existence".

The second meaning of off-the-wall is mad, crazy and off one's nut. Battiness is one of the biggest departments in the slang lexicon, after sex and money, from Ronny Reagan's initially puzzling "Loony Tunes" to "out to lunch" to "flarp" (clean round the bend).

As usual with slang, it is difficult to pin down the original metaphor in off the wall. But perhaps it comes from the erratic angles at which balls bounce off the wall in such games as squash, rackets, and the American version of fives called handball. It may also have been influenced by the hospital and Army slang of "bounce off the walls", referring to the behaviour of psychotic patients. A phrase that can mean anything from eccentric to out of left field must be used with caution.

Americans are good with wall phrases: relatives are best with a wall between the wall has ears, the plain has eyes; everyone gives

a push to a tumbling wall. This is gratifying, because "wall" is one of the oldest words in our common English language. The pronunciation shows that the Anglo-Saxons had borrowed the word from Latin before they invaded England. They were the only Germanic tribe to take words from Latin, and the words they took before their migration to England retain the more "classical" pronunciation of W, corresponding to the Latin V. The Anglo-Saxons did not have a letter V. Examples are "wall" from the Latin *vallum*, "wine" from *vinum*, and "pillow" from *pillivus*. Later borrowings, after the Anglo-Saxons had invaded England and invented V, have a vee pronunciation instead of the W. For example, "fun" from the Latin *varius*, and "fiddle", the ancestor of our viol and violin, from the Latin *vitula*. Besides having the best wall-on-part in the theatre, played by Snout the Tinker, Wall has deep and off-the-wall roots in English.

It used to be fashionable for the British to sneer at American English. Sam Johnson called Americans, "a race of convicts who ought to be thankful for anything we allow them short of hanging". And Coleridge, complaining about the "vile and barbarous word talented", observed that "most of these pieces of slang come from America". As a matter of fact, it came from Britain in 1422. Good writers and pseudo alike today recognise that the best slang comes from America.

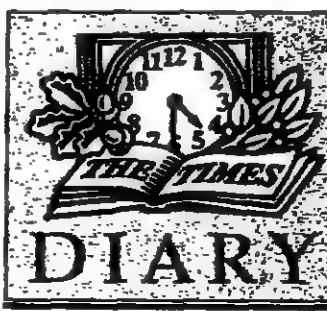
Into the lion's den

THE EC summit at Edinburgh in December — the crowning moment of Britain's presidency — has been hit by division already. The Foreign Office and local authorities in the Edinburgh region have experienced a little local difficulty in agreeing on the summit logo.

The FO, anxious to encourage local involvement, backed an attempt by a consortium of Scottish local authorities to come up with a new mascot to be used on the front of the 200,000 glossy brochures being produced for the event. Now the FO must be wishing it had stuck with Rory the Lion, the British presidential logo which was unveiled by Douglas Hurd earlier this year.

The councils commissioned the Scottish artist Calum Colvin. He produced a cartoon figure with lightbulbs sticking out of his bagpipes and Scottish football club paraphernalia dangling from his sporran, surrounded by graffiti such as "All right Jacques". Only a can of lager was missing from an image designed to strike fear and loathing into the heart of every visiting European leader.

The Foreign Office was privately appalled. Edinburgh council, Lothian regional council and the local chamber of commerce, which helped to fund the design, were deeply divided. The leader of Edinburgh council, Mark Lazarowicz, is a fan. He says "Tastes differ. It just goes to show there are still some artistic conservatives in Edinburgh. But then they are over 40." Yet the youthful Lazarowicz ended up on the losing side. The city elders have now reluctantly conceded that the illustration "reinforces a stereotypical image". The logo will be replaced instead by a



collage of EC flags, leaving Colvin, who is better known as a sculptor and photographer, quite perplexed. "My work is to do with seeing things differently, if they did not like it, they should not have commissioned me."

And all this before anyone has even mentioned Maastricht.

● Shopkeepers who run short of small change in the Russian port of Severomorsk have found a novel solution: they give their customers condoms instead. Newspaper kiosks have started using contraceptives as small change instead of more traditional Russian alternatives such as bus tickets and sweets.

Sting for Woody

DESPITE their reputation as Europe's great lovers, the Italians apparently draw the line at Woody Allen and Soon-Yi. Orreste Lionello, who has dubbed many of Allen's films into Italian is threatening to refuse to work on his latest, *Husbands and Wives*. And the Italian company La Co-op Nordmilia is "re-examining" its \$5 million contract with Allen for a series of commercials, squeamish that the connection might tarnish the corporate image.

Not that Allen should worry. Such is the interest in *Husbands and Wives* generated by his custody battle with the film's co-star Mia

Farrow that TriStar has brought forward the release date. Despite an initial outbreak of nerves on the part of the executives of Japanese-owned TriStar, it now looks as though they have hit the box-office jackpot.

It seems that the Hollywood underworld thinks so too. The FBI is investigating the disappearance of a print of the film, which they fear is about to make an appearance on the pirate video market.

Wandsworth south

A SMALL CORNER of the London borough of Wandsworth was covered in snow this week. There



was Sir Ranulph Fiennes, intrepid polar explorer, dragging his sledge through the blizzards. Yes, it has been a dreadful August, but surely things haven't been that bad?

Well, the snow was artificial, and the man in the Gore-Tex, with the sledge was a model of Sir Ranulph, who is off to the South Pole in two months' time, attempting the first unsupported crossing of Antarctica without the help of dogs or airdrops. The chill in Wandsworth was for the benefit of the press and poster campaign for the

Multiple Sclerosis Society, which hopes to raise £3 million for the charity.

"Sir Ranulph is up to his eyes preparing for the trip, so we had to use a model," says a spokesman. "And we couldn't afford to shoot the ad at the South Pole. Wandsworth was the nearest we could get to the ends of the earth."

Cooped up?

READERS of *Jilly Cooper* will be relieved to hear that she has not been reduced to writing Ladybird-sized books. Cooper, whose racy bestsellers tend to run to 750 pages or more, has been plagued by fans alarmed at tales that the contract for her next book *The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous* stipulates that the book should not exceed 250 pages because of the cost of postage.

"Books are sent to retailers in packs of 12, and mine cost a small fortune," she is quoted as saying in an interview with a women's weekly magazine. But Cooper says she is already on page 400 of the new book, and is battling madly against a deadline. "I think they got it a little bit wrong. The contract states that the book should not run to more than 250,000 words, which is quite different."

● Mick Jagger got little satisfaction at a Richmond video shop when he tried to borrow some tapes. *Village Video* demanded identification before it would agree to enrol Jagger, whose London house is nearby. Presumably the fit and 50-rock star provided the necessary, for the shop, which is reluctant to discuss the incident, confirmed yesterday that Jagger is now the possessor of a membership card. "But he could have been someone trying to look like him," said an employee. "We do get people who come in and give false details."

سكس في الدفن



PRECARIOUS PROGRESS

A deal is done. For John Major that in itself has been a triumph. To bring together leaders of countries and factions that are raining death and destruction upon each other, to sit them together in one room, to wring from them agreement to silence their guns, free their captives, give up conquered territory and negotiate a new way of living together — all that is more than even optimists hoped for from the London Yugoslavia conference.

Sadly it is only another in a series of hesitant starts down what remains an uncertain road. Despair, cynicism and outright condemnation were the prevailing reactions to the conference of the Balkan participants. Fighting rages in Sarajevo, fiercer than ever. There is no good faith and no good sense anywhere in the devastation of former Yugoslavia. The world must now exert more collective pressure on Serbia than it has ever directed against any state short of going to war.

Ending the fighting must be the absolute priority, the litmus test of the agreements' validity. Until the killing stops, neither the peoples of Yugoslavia nor world public opinion will even look at what else was agreed. The factions pledged themselves to a series of specific actions. These included lifting the siege of Sarajevo and the other three Muslim towns, bringing all forces including the irregulars under central control, a ban on direct or indirect military help to the groups fighting in Bosnia, the progressive reduction of arms in the region, and the placing of all heavy weapons under United Nations supervision. This last key concession by the Bosnian Serbs came in an offer by Radovan Karadzic, their leader, to begin notifying the UN of its heavy weaponry within 96 hours.

Yet no deadline was set for any of this, not even for the start of the 96 hours. Cyrus Vance admitted that not until extra UN forces are in place can monitoring begin. To put it mildly this is a severe setback. Other loopholes are also beginning to appear.

A-LEVEL HEALTH WARNING

The "league table" of A-level examination results that *The Times* publishes today needs careful interpretation. This year's schools have released their results voluntarily. Next year, as a result of the parents' charter, they will be obliged to do so. League tables will thus be an officially sanctioned, educational Olympic games. It is vital therefore to reiterate that these are tables of examination results, pure and simple. They are not tables of "best schools" nor of those schools that have achieved the most for their pupils, nor even of the schools that have the best record of university entry or career preparation.

Throughout the past week, head teachers of all kinds of schools, including the most distinguished, expressed misgivings as they gave their results to *The Times* education staff. Most regarded competition between schools achieved by comparing A-level results as "quite fun" provided it was viewed as a sporting event. They felt it fairest to measure not just the familiar As and Bs at A-level but, as *The Times* had done, average A-level scores including Cs, Ds and Es used for university entrance purposes. They added that the more seriously such competition was taken, the more misleading and dangerous it could become.

The league tables demonstrate, if demonstration were still needed, that the best way to achieve good results is to start with clever pupils at the age of 11 or 13, by weeding out the less bright or less motivated. Those institutions that select at the start can be shown to have selected correctly. Middle class homes with an enthusiasm for education tend to be better at producing academically successful pupils than working class homes. These biases are familiar.

The necessary corrective, much debated among educationists, is for a comparison not of unweighted exam results but of academic "value added" by each school, the true measure of a school's achievement. This

Though all sides have conceded that territory cannot be gained or borders changed by force, the Serbs now control 70 per cent of Bosnia, virtually achieving their war aims. The only sacrifice now demanded of the Bosnian Serbs is that they renounce "enosis" with Serbia. So they can pretend to acknowledge Bosnia's nominal borders, spin out constitutional negotiations in Geneva and consolidate the de facto partition of Bosnia.

John Major understandably presented the London agreement as only a framework for more talks. Its importance so far can only be said to lie in restating certain principles of international law over the realpolitik of accepting Serbia's conquests. The world did not accept the forcible annexation of territory in the West Bank of Jordan; the conference insisted the belligerents understand the same in Yugoslavia. It also insisted that human rights are not negotiable.

Serbia, for example, has publicly promised it will restore full civil rights to the Albanian majority in Kosovo. This may stick in the gut of Slobodan Milosevic, who clawed his way to the top by exploiting Serbian nationalism in Kosovo. But he has heard, discussed with brutal clarity in his presence, how the world will isolate, boycott, and condemn his country to "pariah status" if he reneges so publicly on Kosovo and on his promise not to support and arm the fighters.

The world has taken a gamble at the conference. Having specifically ruled out the ultimate sanction of military intervention — it is counting on the combined moral, political and economic leverage of the United Nations, the big powers, the European Community and the Islamic world to break Serbian intransigence. Insofar as documents have been agreed, this has worked. But at the first sign of backsliding, double-dealing or tergiversation, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance must invoke the full and immediate panoply of denunciation, tougher sanctions and ostracism from the civilised world. Time is of the essence.

would involve assessing input as well as output, raw material as well as the quality of its processing. Otherwise neither parents nor governors can gain any sense of a school's real educational performance, of how far it has helped a child as it travels the course of the school career. Any stable can win races if it stocks itself only with thoroughbreds.

This means taking account of what is bound to be an unequal starting line: unequal, not just socially and intellectually but in terms of the quality of available primary schooling as well. Unfortunately a universally accepted formula for calculating value added has not yet been achieved, and for those systems that exist experimentally, the calculation is difficult.

Some measure of value added is essential if the government's burgeoning education bureaucracy is to balance claims for resources between different schools. It will be needed also as the raw data for assessing teacher performance for pay bonus purposes. Absence of such measures could at some point become both damaging and disruptive, adding to the existing disadvantages of lower performing schools the incubus of being unable to pay competitive rates for new teachers. The highest salaries would be available, by Whitehall writ, only in the leafy suburbs or fashionable county towns. This would savagely reinforce the divisiveness of opting out in the secondary sector, which will in any event put inner city schools at a competitive disadvantage.

League tables there will be, and as long as they exist they should be made as fair as possible. But every one that is published should come with a health warning. The main benefit of today's exercise is the opportunity to remind teachers and parents that quantitative measuring in education is necessary if public disquiet at school standards is to be allayed. The task now must be to make such tests ever more objective.

ADVANCED SCIENCE

If the annual science festival held by the British Association for the Advancement of Science stopped existing it would need to be reinvented. How else would all sorts of other inventions and discoveries tickle the public's taste for novelties and surprises? The summer event has become the one serious part of the silly season, science without tears, even science as entertainment.

That is its fascination. The perfect example of a British Association paper was the one read at Southampton University this week, which addressed the fairly silly subject of untidy desks. It had a down-to-earth and satisfying conclusion. The office worker who liked to be surrounded by heaps of yellowing paper had unconsciously solved an information retrieval problem that mechanical filing systems and computer databases could not handle. Even the way old documents tend to fall off the edge and get thrown away was part of this haphazard but effective method of seeing that first things came first and last things last.

This year's British Association programme included research into lobsters which live in power-station waste, how to get children to eat spinach by computer, why waves in the Atlantic are getting taller, and the distribution of genes in the British population. The tribal groups apparently number no less than the Biblical 12, and yes, Yorkshiremen are different from East Anglians. For good measure, according to another paper, the English are taller than the Scots, and some dinosaurs had eight hearts.

The British Association summer meeting — from this year to be known as a science festival — may be a jumble of facts and

fancies but one that demonstrates that not all science is grim and not all scientists lack a sense of humour. That science can be fun is a serious scientific discovery, worth celebrating and passing on. Earlier this month the nation's examination results showed that science subjects were once again in decline, the arts and humanities rising. Once more the statistics brought out a gender division between hard and soft science: girls tending towards biology, boys towards maths and physics. Even in a nation whose record of past scientific achievement is as respectable as Britain's, science has a gender problem and an image problem.

The cause is not hard to discern. It is the assumed coldness of science, the rational, objective, sheer inhumanity of it. Science must appeal to facts and calculations and evidence. The popular image of scientists says they cannot let human nature into their laboratories. They are not like ordinary mortals, with imagination, creativity and excitement.

This is unscientific myth. Scientists are driven by passions like every other profession. The experience of having it satisfied after an intense scientific quest is as thrilling as any moment known to music, art or poetry. Like historians, musicians or painters, scientists make mistakes because their feelings mislead them. They compete; they love and hate. And at the great moments of science they seize on some new truth by a leap of creative intuition long before they can prove it by logic and experiment. That is the romance of science. And each year the British Association provides the ideal popular introduction to it.

Palace privacy, public curiosity and an intrusive press

From Mr Godfrey Talbot
Sir, To numbers of people all over the world the image of our royal family has been tarnished in these last weeks. It is not a time to be proud of our press, or at any rate the grosser orders of it, and sadly, the smearing of an individual has been mistaken by some readers to be the smearing of a clan in a year in which the Queen's personally flawless four decades on the throne are being celebrated.

The silliness of "Fergie fever" seems to have led some otherwise balanced people into imagining that our thousand-year-old monarchy, unique in an enviable world, has come into some sort of crisis, even evoking memories of the 1936 abdication, which is nonsense.

The British throne is unshaken. The Queen herself, because of this lovely episode, has lately been the focus of extra public sympathy and affection, to instance the sum of many of the comments I have received.

What do moaners about the monarchy want: successions of political presidential puppets waving party flags from the balcony of a Buckingham Palace turned into a government emporium?

Incidentally, is there not the greatest antithesis when one thinks of the present holder of the title and the previous Duchess of York, the matchless Queen Mother, who stays, quiet and comforted, in her native Scotland?

Yours faithfully,
GODFREY TALBOT,
Holmwell, Hook Hill,
Sunderland, Surrey.
August 25.

From Mr T. H. Hughes-Davies
Sir, Any tapping of private wireless transmissions is as easy as shoplifting and as illegal as interference with the Royal Mail. Such information is as much stolen as if it came from a solicitor's safe or across a Chinese wall. Why are those who receive and profit from it not similarly pursued?

Yours sincerely,
T. H. HUGHES-DAVIES,
Slades Cottage, Breamore Marsh,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.
August 26.

Britain and Somalia

From Mr Louis FitzGibbon
Sir, I doubt if Sir Philip Goodhart's idea (letter, August 20) of a temporary UN trusteeship in the north of Somalia would be acceptable to the administration of "Somaliland".

As the UN secretary general is in London this week for meetings on another matter, it would be useful if our government took the opportunity to ask him in what way we could assist in trying to reduce this disaster.

The Overseas Development Agency has pledged extra money (report, August 17), but something tangible like an airlift would be a welcome addition to our contribution. It is good to learn that the United States is already tying in aid from Kenya.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS FITZGIBBON,
8 Portland Place,
Brighton, East Sussex.
August 28.

Monitors for mothers

From Mrs Mary R. Heaton
Sir, Medical Briefing (August 21) says that the Royal College of Psychiatrists is to encourage GPs to give patients a questionnaire to attempt to discover underlying and therefore undiagnosed depression. One particular target is women who have recently given birth.

These women are regularly visited by the health visitor, who has considerable experience in recognising early post-natal problems and is perhaps more likely than the GP to notice early signs of depression. Perhaps the royal college could enlist the help of this group of professionals so that any tendency to depression can be identified even before the six-week post-natal check by the GP.

Yours faithfully,
MARY HEATON,
8 Foxgrove Gardens,
Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Exam results

From Dr R. J. Belcher
Sir, Some say that the improvement in A-level and GCSE examination results (reports, August 21, 27) is because examination marking has become more lenient. As a teacher and former A-level examiner I have seen at first hand the enormous extra effort made by both sides in our education system.

Much more high-standard work is being done now than a few years ago, particularly in coursework. The improvement in standards is real: it is not a result of "easy" examinations or "soft" marking.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD J. BELCHER
(Deputy Warden),
Kingham Hill School, Kingham,
Chipping Norton, Oxford.

From Mr Lionel Bryan
Sir, "Guaranteed Certificate for Sitting the Examination?"

Sincerely,
LIONEL BRYAN,
23 Jenson Close,
Walsall, West Midlands.
August 28.

From Mr David Holbrook

Sir, There have been some startling indications of a recent change in public attitudes towards the publication of intimate pictures of a member of the royal family. And now we learn (report, later editions, August 26) that more than 40,000 people have telephoned, at great expense, to listen to an alleged pirated telephone conversation, supposed to have been private.

We have allowed this subtle corruption of voyeurism to overtake us, until the present situation, in which people no longer even notice the sickness in which they are involved. But as those authorities appointed to preserve privacy stand helplessly by (there are after all, as you state in your previous day's report, laws against telephone tapping) this decadence gradually erodes respect for persons, values and institutions to the detriment of our democracy: as done, it must be said, in the name of "freedom", by a gross travesty of that concept.

I fervently hope that no British charity will accept any of that money.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HOLBROOK,
Denmore Lodge,
Brunswick Gardens, Cambridge.

From Mr Graham Chaine

Sir, I do not see why royalty should not sunbathe topless, have affairs, or do anything else in their private lives that other people do, provided it does not affect the proper fulfilment of their public duties.

If we are going to have a "classless" society, let us start by abolishing the notion of royalty as representing archaic values, which they don't, can't, and never will. And let us get rid of all the hypocrisy about "public figures" and all the prurient interest that currently surrounds "celebrities".

Let us judge people by their contribution to society, not by their "status", or by their private lives, or malign title-tattle. If the media ceased to prioritise the superficial activities of a few over the often worthier deeds of the rest the heavens would not fall.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CHAINE,
17 Marine Parade,
Brighton, Sussex.

From the Reverend Kenneth Leech

Sir, Alun Michael, MP (letter, August 25), is right to stress British responsibility for Somaliland. However, while there has been a marked improvement in media coverage of events in Somalia, and, to a lesser extent, Somaliland in recent months, inadequate attention has been given to the situation of the Somali homeless in Britain.

For many years the East End of London has been home to the Somali community in Britain, with smaller communities in Cardiff, Liverpool, South Shields and elsewhere. Originally a small, and entirely male, community of seamen, the Somalis were heavily concentrated in the Cable Street and Ensign Street neighbourhood of the old borough of Stepney. I taught English to many of these older Somalis in 1958, and have been involved with members of the community ever since.

In recent years, this old community has been massively augmented by an influx of refugees, as the

From Mr Stuart Smith

Sir, The following item appeared in *Ofel News*, the journal of the Office of Telecommunications, at the beginning of August:

GEC-Marconi Communications has won a nomination for The Prince of Wales Award for Innovation. The nomination, presented by His Royal Highness Prince Charles, was for a speech scrambler for radio or telephone systems.

The device prevents unauthorised radio users from intercepting and listening into private conversations...

Yours sincerely,
S. A. SMITH,
Ofel (Office of Telecommunications),
Export House,
50 Ludgate Hill, EC4.

From Professor Emeritus L. J. Herbst

Sir, You report (August 26) that *The Sun* intends to give the £50,000 profit from the headline recording of the alleged telephone conversation involving the Princess of Wales to charity.

I fervently hope that no British charity will accept any of that money.

Yours sincerely,
L. J. HERBST,
21 Walton Avenue,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

From Mrs Sophie Hughes

Sir, Of all that has been reported about the Duke and Duchess of York's matrimonial difficulties I have found comments concerning the "custody" of Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie particularly objectionable.

Under the Children Act 1989, which came into force last October, the term custody has been done away with. The courts recognise that both parents have parental responsibility. They will step in to help them in carrying out those responsibilities only if parents are unable to agree arrangements between themselves.

The philosophy behind the Act is clear; but it also seems clear that courts and lawyers alike face an uphill struggle persuading the public to give up the idea of children being prizes to be won or lost.

Yours faithfully,
SOPHIE HUGHES,
Raddifles & Co. (Solicitors),
5 Great College Street, SW1.

records of the refugee organisations show. The problems of homelessness among the 15,000 or more Somalis in the East End are very serious.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEECH,
The Somali Homeless Project,
Post Street Church,
Bethnal Green, E2,
August 26.

From Professor Kenneth Kirkwood

Sir, "Flood Somalia with food", says Mr Alun Michael, MP. Yes, indeed! But with at least equal priority stop the flood of murderous, modern weapons which has aided and accelerated the mutual, mass self-destruction there.

Somali as well as British analysts for many years have emphasised the devastating transformations automatic weapons have brought to what were relatively harmless inter-clan skirmishes.

Yours truly,
KENNETH KIRKWOOD,
233 Woodstock Road, Oxford.

it hard to acknowledge the deep spiritual integrity of Islam and the holiness and discipline of the life of so many Muslims.

May I urge your Christian readers to make most special efforts to establish contacts and friendships and real neighbourliness with Muslim citizens? There will be no world inter-racial peace unless it begins near to home.

Yours sincerely,
PETER A. BERRY,
Birmingham Cathedral,
Colmore Row, Birmingham.

Wainwright guides

From Mr Philip Ray

Sir, As a dedicated user of the Wainwright guides to the Lakeland fells for the past 20 years or more, I sympathise with the purist viewpoint that the books as written by the oracle are sacrosanct and should not be revised (Diary, August 24).

On the other hand, though, some of the routes described by Wainwright have become unusable through erosion; in other cases problems of access have arisen, and

some routes — for example, the ascent of the Buttermere Red Pike via Sour Milk Gill — have become positively dangerous.

The simplest solution seems to be to republish the Wainwright route descriptions intact, but to include a publisher's note detailing those routes (comparatively few, one would guess) where fell-walkers could encounter problems.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP RAY,
6 Cleve Terrace,
Lewes, East Sussex.

Organic farming

From Mr Bill Starling

Sir, No system of agriculture in this country can survive without political support — which has not yet been given to organic farming (report from British Association conference, "Organic farmers' risking penury", August 25). Many conventional farmers are currently in a desperate situation.

Government support could be achieved within the reform of the common agricultural policy, which aims to control surplus production, protect the environment and preserve rural communities. Organic farming systems, as defined by EC and UK government legislation, and policed by bodies such as the Soil Association, can demonstrably deliver these benefits.

The present set-aside proposals are unlikely to do so, though. They

merely encourage farmers to further intensify production on land not set aside, with inevitable environmental consequences, and to shed labour wherever possible.

Organic systems are sustainable, safeguarding food production into the future in the face of growing problems of resistance to today's agro-chemicals and loss of top soil through over-exploitation of our land.

Yours faithfully,
BILL STARLING
(Deputy Chairman),
British Organic Farmers,
86 Colston Street, Bristol, Avon.
August 25.

Weekend Money letters, page 22

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Giving the bird to a gilded Cage?

From Mr Robert Storr

Sir, I doubt that many American dailies devoted prime space to the passing of John Cage (obituary and leading article, August 14). By that measure the editorial, "Pray silence for John Cage", was a noteworthy gesture of recognition. More's the pity, then, that it should have used the occasion to belittle Cage's music and his aims, thereby reinforcing popular misunderstanding of and contempt for minimal forms of abstract art.

For 50 years Cage succeeded brilliantly in moving beyond his own previous achievements and ahead of informed taste, that being exactly what a serious vanguard artist must do to merit the label. Humor was a large element of his gift and his statements teased and provoked to enlightening effect. Never, though, did he compose music as a joke.

The editorial dismissed the piece designed to be played *pizzicato* on eight cacti, but I listened to Cage perform it 15 years ago and still vividly recall the sounds and silences.

Most disarming of all the slighting suggestions made in the leading article (but not the obituary) was that Cage belonged to a modernist fraternity given to displays of "juvenile machismo" and primarily drawn by the desire to "enrage and shock".

Cage was no more guilty of such pettiness than the other artists mentioned. Kasimir Malevich's white on white canvas of 1919 was inspired by revolutionary transcendentalism vastly broader in scope than the mere ambition to offend conservatives. Delight, not rage, is the emotion Robert Rymen hopes in our day to elicit with similarly "simple" white squares.

For his part Cage understood better than anyone of his era that the appropriate reaction to chance stimuli is wonder. If laughter is provoked by such experience it is not the snickering of the aesthetically smug but the shared laughter that expresses the pleasure we may freely trace in the revelation of the absurd.

In many respects Cage was Samuel Beckett's optimistic American cousin. As world events tend to confirm Beckett's bleak vision, we should increasingly be grateful for Cage's profound and salvatory whimsy. It is a shame that his death should have prompted *The Times* editorial to laugh at more than with him.

Yours truly,
ROBERT STORR (Curator),
Department of Painting
and Sculpture,
Museum of Modern Art,
11 West 53rd Street,
New York, NY 10019, USA.

To wig or not to wig

From Mr Jonathan Fuller

Sir, Most dients appear before the courts either against their will or with hind sight, against their better judgments. Once there, however, they expect understanding, impartiality and fairness. If to these qualities can be added wisdom, and all at no greater cost than is necessary, the law has served its purpose.

In this day and age my Lords Taylor and Bingham would be better advised to seek "user confidence" rather than "user friendliness" ("Mackay to seek public's judgment on judicial finery", August 19).

The public deserve a quality and efficiency of service they do not at present get. They are not impressed by cosmetic changes which achieve nothing of consequence save the removal of the familiar appearance which undoubtedly serves to underline the seriousness of the judicial process.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN FULLER,
2 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.

From Mrs Catherine Cheston

Sir, I attended an adoption hearing as guardian *ad litem* some years ago. Although these hearings are always informal they can be daunting to adoptive parents and children old enough to be aware of the proceedings.

The judge, a shrewd Yorkshireman, threw his wig down the table around which we were assembled and invited the children to try it on in consequence, the adoptive parents and the children relaxed and contributed, freely, to the hearing. The order was granted.

What might have been a day "to be got over" became a pleasurable day to remember.

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE CHESTON,
Isleham, Oast House Field,
Ickham, Winchester, East Sussex.

From Lord Justice Parker

Sir, Will jolly, "user-friendly" judges be better at detecting fudges than those so often wrongly blamed for jury verdicts later claimed.

And found to be unsound? Will wigless Bench and wigless Bar arrest the law's now falling star. Or will they make it fall yet faster? And prove to be a great disaster to everyone around?

Does England really want all sorts of cosy, "Perry Mason" courts? That others like them manners not. If we are right and they are not. Let justice true abound.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER PARKER,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.



WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

John Timpson lives happily tucked away from tourists and progress in deepest Norfolk. He explains his affection for the real country

MICHAEL J. STEAD



A gentle tale of village folk

It was not an auspicious introduction to the country life. The earlier stages of the journey had involved leaving Liverpool Street station via Bethnal Green and Hackney, an experience which 40 years ago was even more depressing than it is today. The final stage was even worse, a ride in an ancient double-decker from the station at Norwich into the heart of what most people would call deep Norfolk, but which Norfolkmen, who like to "du differnt", refer to as High Norfolk. At first sight it is an unspectacular landscape, a succession of beet and barley fields with a scattering of cottages and the occasional farmhouse, all apparently uninhabited. To a born-and-bred suburbanite, on a wet Sunday in January in the early 1950s, it looked like the end of the civilised world.

I had left Harrow to venture into the unknown world of rural journalism, in this case the *Dereham & Fakenham Times*. It was a path that many others have trodden, hoping it would lead them back in due course to fame and fortune in Fleet Street, and if the opportunity came they were happy to shake the mud of the provinces off their feet and return to the joys of Metroland. I suppose I went to Norfolk with much the same ambition, and indeed as that bus penetrated deeper into the sodden hinterland of High Norfolk, I am sure I looked forward to getting out again.

But during the next eight years, as I became acclimatised to the realities of rural life, which in those days meant a privy down the garden more than roses round the door, I came to appreciate the quality of life in a small and fairly remote rural community. When I did return to London and a reporting job with the BBC, I returned with reluctance. I never lost touch with the world I now felt myself a part of, a world where life proceeded in a civilised fashion, at its own speed, as it had done for centuries, in a way which I could never experience in the big towns.

The same applies in countless other villages outside Norfolk, and over the years I have sought out a good many of them all over England, but High Norfolk in its isolated corner of East Anglia has more than most. The Industrial Revolution virtually passed it by, and until recent years so did the property developers, the travel agents and the long-distance London commuters. The branch railways which used to serve it have long since disappeared, along with the ancient double-decker and its fellows, and the nearest motorway stops short at Cambridge, 50 miles to the south. The smaller villages have no mains sewerage, even some of the larger ones are without a school or a doctor, street lighting and pavements are a luxury.

It may seem strange, then, that villages and village life can be regarded with such affection by someone who spent his first 20 years in the suburbs, and returned to the London area for another 30. I find it difficult to explain myself, but perhaps it is because these communities are carrying on where many, many generations have gone before, living in the same surroundings, often in the same house, trying to preserve the same values and the same special quality of rural life. I feel it most strongly in the unglamorous villages which are genuinely "down-to-earth" — most of the families are still linked to the land, and life is still lived by the seasons. They have an atmosphere of timelessness and permanence; only the people change.

It is all epitomised, I suppose, by the village church, and this applies particularly in Norfolk, with its 650 medieval churches; each one has the story of its parish preserved in its monuments, its windows, its decorations and its furnishings. The one opposite my cottage has stood there for 700 years, from the days when the village had two Lords of the Manor and two rectors, through the prosperous years of the wool trade and the hard times of Victorian rural poverty to the mechanisation of the farms and the much-reduced and partly "incomer" population of the present day, with no longer two rectors or even one, just a one-seventh share. Throughout it all, St Andrew's has remained much the same, except that so many generations of villagers are buried around it that the churchyard is now 3ft higher than the surrounding land. Like countless other churches all over England, it remains the heart of the village.

But it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a village which has remained as unchanged as its church. Even in High Norfolk we have the retirement bungalows and the holiday homes. We have the



A Timpson favourite: Great Massingham, Norfolk (top) and villagers Canon Cedric Bradbury, sub-postmistress Sheila Smith, Diane and Charles Fosgate from the store, and publican Mike Allen

ugly in-filling in the village centres, the red-brick estates all around.

Some English villages suffer much more, but they may still be able to retain their identity; they may still preserve some fascinating reminders of their more deeply rooted past, and the folk who lived there in more gentle, leisurely days. They may have more to commend them, in fact, than the more obvious choices of the photographers and the coach parties, because some of the villages which have managed to preserve their original appearance are not always what they seem.

The Big House in the park may look just as imposing, but it is probably a hotel, or a private school, or an expensive nursing home. In the village pub there are plenty of ploughman's lunches, but not too many ploughmen. The larger houses probably have bed-and-breakfast signs in the windows, and down the village street, behind those timbered frontages and quaint bow windows, there are souvenir shops and tearooms and the inevitable "antiques".

That is why, when I go in search of a genuine English village with a genuine story to tell, I am wary of those which the gazetteers call "picture-book", because that may be all they are, just a pretty picture. One has to dig a little deeper to discover if there is anything beyond the obvious, behind the facade.

For instance, I found myself recently at Castle Combe, Wiltshire, often acclaimed as the prettiest village in England, so its streets are permanently packed with tourists throughout the summer. I duly admired the weavers' cottages, long since devoid of weavers, and the Big House, once occupied by Lords of the Manor, now the Manor House Hotel. But then I headed for the church, always the place to find an unexpected gem and take a sudden step back into history, and there it was, something I have seen in no other church, an ancient font with a stone book-rest carved on to the side of the bowl, so the priest could read the baptism prayers with both hands free for the baby. The church guidebook calls it unique, and I have no reason to doubt it. But who was the ingenious medieval mason who designed it, and

why didn't such a good idea catch on? Fascinating stuff.

In spite of a discovery like that, I still prefer to avoid a "picture-book village". Much more rewarding, in my view, are the unfashionable, working villages where people still lead much the same lives as their forebears, maintaining their traditions, preserving their legends, and hoping to remain undisturbed by incomers, tourists, developers, or even writers, who I am afraid have a lot to answer for in the disruption of our villages. If their books are made into films or television series, the effects are even worse. How many coachloads of sightseers have invaded that once-peaceful area of Yorkshire which is now labelled "Herriot Country"?

And how many Wordsworth buffs have followed the trail from his home in Cockermouth to the quiet little hamlet he immortalised in "The Beauty of Buttermere"?

Yet even these over-publicised villages have attraction for me, quite outside their literary connections. At Buttermere, for instance, there was once a lay preacher called Robert Walker, who fulfilled his duties so assiduously that he was

known as Wonderful Walker. He augmented his tiny stipend by doing a little ploughing and cloth-spinning, but he also benefited from four local customs which rejoiced in the names of dog-shoes, harden-sark, whittle-gate and goose-gate. They meant that he received free shoes and clothing, free food and board, and free grazing for his goose. It was a civilised form of parish support for the church which present-day diocesan finance committees may well envy. This is one village where at least the names live on, and for me this is the real Beauty of Buttermere.

Best of all, however, are those villages, increasingly rare but still somehow surviving, which have remained undiscovered by other writers and ignored by the tour operators, yet still have a curious feature in their history, or a strange tale to tell.

In the Cotswolds, for example, while everyone else flocks to Broadway and Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water, there is a quiet lane along the Windrush valley which leads to the lovely riverside village of Sherborne. The family mansion of the Duttons, who were squires here for four centuries, has been converted into luxury flats, but you will still find their monuments in the church which adjoins it — and one of them, a stonemason's nightmare. Under a grandiose effigy of Sir John Dutton, draped in a toga and leaning nonchalantly on a convenient urn, the inscription is slightly marred because the mason carved the name of Sir John's grandfather as John Barwick, then discovered too late it was Peter — so he just scored out the "John" and carved "Peter" above it. The correction is still there, some 250 years later, and wherever the stonemason is, no doubt his face is still red.

In North Yorkshire, if you turn south from those much-tramped moors into the less scenic and

comparatively deserted Vale of York, you may find a village which had its dramatic moment of glory in 1991, when it reached the final of the national village cricket competition. Its name, Harome, could rhyme with Jerome or even Salome, but it actually dates back to a 12th-century Steward of Helmsley Castle, Drew de Harum, as in harum-scarum. The team they sent to Lord's did that to their opponents, and although they lost to a much larger and more cosmopolitan village they returned to York-shire as heroes. They still talk about it in the cosy thatched and timbered Star Inn, and at the tiny cricket ground up the lane. Even the church magazine rose to the occasion with the headline "The Lord's Day".

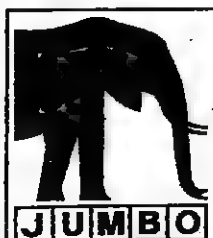
Harome has only 300 inhabitants, but a few miles away is the even smaller hamlet of Salton, just a cluster of cottages around a pocket-handkerchief green, and a medieval church with, incongruously, a chimney poking out of the chancel roof. Inside, among the usual memorials and tablets, the Victorians installed a little open fireplace by the priest's chair — not a thing of beauty, perhaps, but no doubt a joy for the parson on a chilly Sunday morning, and another unexpected discovery for the casual visitor.

The chimney and the fireplace are difficult to miss, but you may not spot the odd feature of a war memorial in another remote and tiny village, this time in Norfolk. The names of the fallen are listed alphabetically — except for Frederick Pile, who comes right at the end. Mr Pile, it turns out, was arguably the unluckiest casualty of the first world war: he was killed when a Zeppelin inexplicably dropped a bomb in the village street. After the war a great debate ensued — should Frederick Pile's name be included on the memorial? The objectors argued that he had not died in active service, so he didn't qualify, but the Pile lobby said he was still killed by enemy action. And so a classic compromise was reached: his name went on the memorial — last. There it still is, a reminder of a sad fatality, a bizarre little controversy, and a happy solution.

The delightful little village where it all happened is tucked away in the heart of Norfolk's farming country and is still quite unspoilt — just a couple of farmhouses, a single street of cottages, a 700-year-old flint-walled church, and that memorial. But unlike Frederick Pile, its name will remain unrecorded — because I happen to live there myself.

● Timpson's English Villages, £19.99, is published by Headline Book Publishing plc on September 10.

PRIZE CROSSWORD, PAGE 10



Here, in nine letters, is a clue to what to do over the holiday weekend. There are prizes of £50 each for the first five winners

BEST OF BRITAIN, PAGES 8,9



Nottingham, 'a town full of improbable splendours', has far more to its bow than Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS, PAGES 6,7,11



Bank holiday specials this week include delicious recipes for entertaining, best buys in wines, places to visit (even buy)

"Phizmongery" Hogarth called it.

For Sotheby's British portraits are a continuing success. This painting of the future king Edward VI sold for £52,800, head and shoulders above the pre-sale estimate.



A Jacobean portrait of Prince Edward, aged nine, from the July 1992 sale. Sold for £52,800.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 18TH SEPTEMBER. Highlights of this sale already include Allan Ramsay's delightful 1760 portrait of Elizabeth Gunning, Duchess of Argyll and Constable's glorious view of Salisbury Cathedral. If you're interested in selling your portraits, landscapes, watercolours and drawings by British artists could be worth a king's ransom, too. Please contact David Moore-Gwyn or Henry Wemyss on 071-408 5406 or 5409 as soon as possible.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FINE ART AUCTION HOUSE
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Cult of the camcorder celebrities

What people want now is the glamour of being on television, Lynne Truss writes, even if this entails filming themselves

LOCH Ness. An old mobile library, converted into a simple home, sits by the side of the peaceful, deserted loch, its wooden wind generator aloft and gently whizzing, and smoke chugging pleasantly from a chimney. Inside, illuminated by light from an open door, a young man named Steve is talking to a dog, attempting to engage it in conversation.

"Ow-uuur," Steve whines, encouragingly. The dog cocks its head, as though interested but mildly puzzled. "Ow-uuur," repeats Steve earnestly, as though meaning every word. Eventually the dog whines back. Steve gets animated and whines some more; as does the dog. They whine alternately, in fact, until the dog, rather abruptly, simply runs out of things to say, or possibly remembers an appointment elsewhere. At which point Steve turns to the camera, and explains to the viewer precisely what he and the dog have been talking about.

Steve Feltham's *Desperately Seeking Nessie* was shown early in the current run of *Video Diaries* on Saturday nights (BBC2), and was outstanding for all sorts of reasons. Tracing his first year as a dedicated monster-hunter, his film was sharp, personal, good at interviews (even with recalcitrant dogs), and very funny. Sitting on Hadrian's Wall, for example, he remarked that years ago it was "crawling with Italians". But what was great about Steve Feltham's diary was encapsulated in that excellent moment of turning to the camera and interpreting his little chat with the dog.

The trouble with some video diarists, you see, is that camera fetishism can take over. It is as though the viewfinder narrows their view of the world, rather than opening it out; and it is as though the video tape dismally eats up their experience, too, rather than communicating it to a waiting world.

If last week's *Not a Transvestite* was disappointing, it was because the transsexual diarist (Mika, formerly Mike) generally used the camera as either a dull record of events ("how I walked upstairs: a knee's eye view") or as a tiresome friend who insisted on being plunked down on a table to listen to the latest setback. Both are besetting faults of video diarists, leaving you at home verging on and fatigued (and sick and tired, if you prefer).

But back with Steve and the dog, here we had a diarist apparently

TV REVIEW

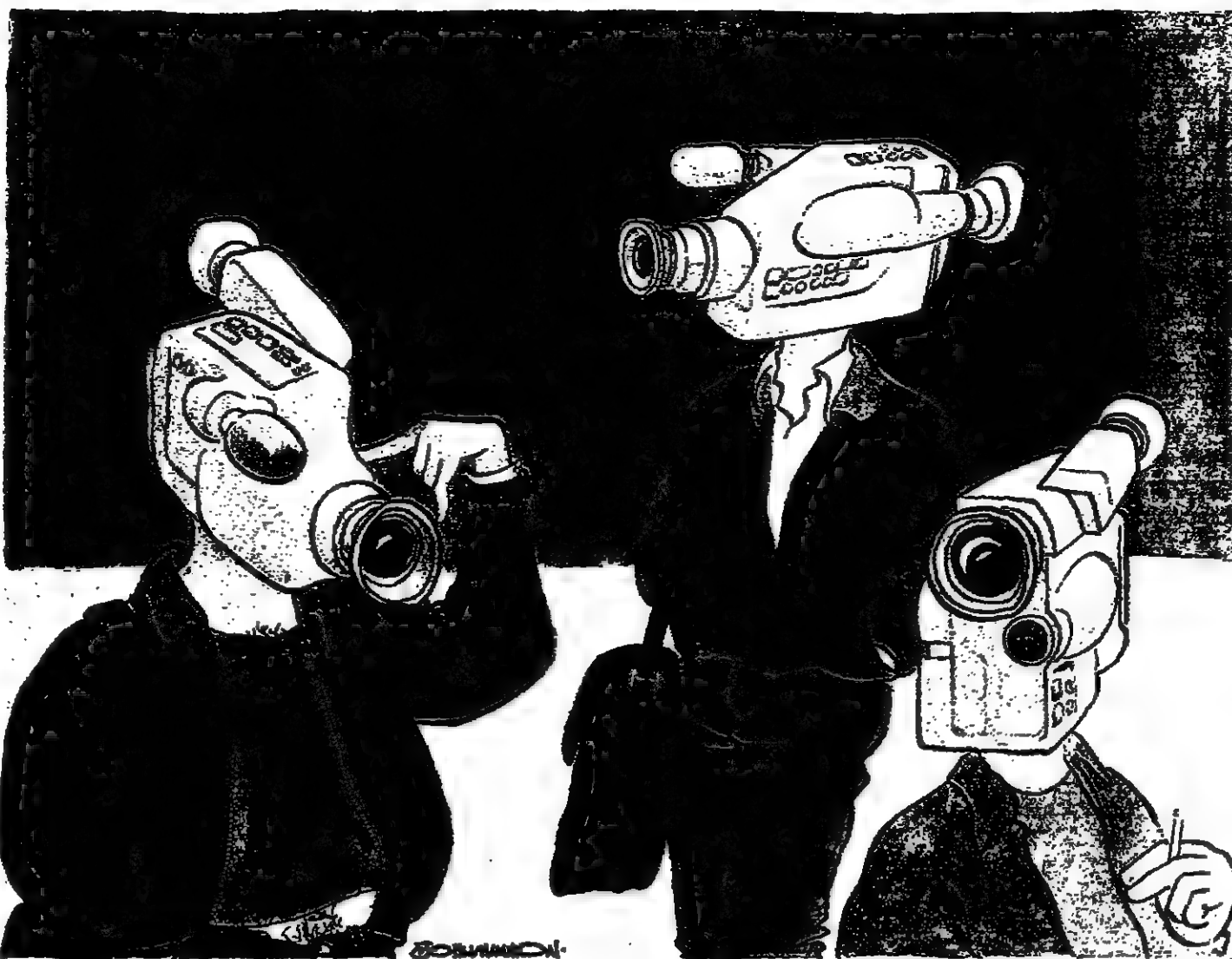
sitting casually indoors making his own entertainment, with just a camera for company; yet at the same time refreshingly aware of an audience beyond the camera — for whom, in fact, the camera *per se* was of no interest whatsoever.

Sorry to hang on about ancient history (a month is a very long time in broadcasting) but this man was a natural video diarist, whose evident instinct for directing not only gave the whole film a highly professional appearance, but also helped him invaluable in putting across his unique point of view. By the end of *Desperately Seeking Nessie*, he had persuaded the viewer that devoting one's life to scanning a 22-mile Scottish loch with a pair of binos was not at all ridiculous, but was actually the best life-decision a young Dorset burglar-alarm salesman could possibly have made.

Anyway, I mention all this because the series is nearly finished, and because tonight's film, *The Man Who Loves Gary Lineker*, is another great success in the point-of-view department.

Tonight's diarist is Ylli Hasani, an Albanian doctor with spectacularly good English, who does indeed love Gary Lineker. What makes his devotion remarkable is that he can feed it only by spending evenings alone in a virtually empty room listening to the BBC World Service on a radio resembling a blue metal box, and cheering like a loony at the crackly faraway English football results.

There is nothing cute, however, about Dr Hasani's devotion to things English. The cheerful "Lillibulero" theme tune blaring forth in the context of this forgotten, poor, demoralised society reeling from past repression might seem incongruous, but that is very definitely the point. "Lillibulero" is a lifeline, and so is the video diary. Seen from Dr Hasani's point of view, Albania is a place with nothing in it except the echo of British broadcasting. Every house he visits is stark, empty, windowless; the landscape itself seems stripped bare, like the set of a post-holocaust Mad Max movie. Yet at home there is *Inspector Morse* on the black and white television set, and Misha Glenny on the radio, to substantiate what Albanians had always suspected but were forbidden outright to know: that there is a world elsewhere.



Switched on: amateur video-makers are said to have bombarded the producers of the new series of *You've Been Framed* with 50,000 tapes

Had Dr Hasani been the subject of a third-person documentary, it could never have had the force of this film. Because however close a reporter gets to his subject, his point of view will inevitably be that of a visitor, who can go home afterwards and watch *Inspector Morse* in colour. Somehow a line gets drawn underneath the alien lifestyle. The great poignancy of Dr Hasani's video diary is that it holds none of this comfort: the making of the film gives him a noble sense of purpose, but it also underlines his appalling isolation (his own, and his country's) quite brutally.

"Misha Glenny!" he exclaims in his room, hugging the radio (making you suddenly appreciate how commonplace we are about our broadcasters). How will he bear it, returning home camera-less, to his salary of £10 a month, after three months in London editing his film?

A puzzling aspect of *Video Diaries* is that since the films are made with cameras loaned by the BBC, on BBC videotape, they carry the suggestion that video technology is beyond the reach of the common man. Is this another example of tunnel vision, I wonder? Camcorders have become so commonplace that among certain classes they have replaced spectacles as a barrier to kissing. This does not signify, of course, that everyone has become interested in recording social history all of a sudden, or that they love their families more. What people want is the glamour of being on telly, and if this entails making the telly themselves, then so be it.

Amateur video-makers are so keen for their work to be broadcast that the new series of *You've Been Framed* has reportedly been bombarded (and it serves them right) with 50,000 submissions. To the people sorting them out, it must seem that half the people in Britain (or Essex, anyway) are making screamingly funny videos of the other half falling into canals with astonished looks on their faces.

And, just as poets generally do not write poetry for its own sake (they send it to magazines), so very few people clamour camcorders to their eyeballs without the ambition of sharing their talent with a few million unsuspecting strangers.

Obviously *Video Diaries* hardly acknowledges the baser look-at-me instinct involved in video-making, but it exists anyway; and when the diarists acknowledge the power of television, it generally improves things. Meanwhile, the 15 minutes of fame promised by Andy Warhol may seem old-hat, but people feel cheated if they do not get it. Nobody is content to think, "Never mind, I expect Esther Rantzen got mine". Instead, they hunger after star status. How long before they start hammering on doors? I envisage a popular uprising, along the lines of the famous mob shouting "Give us back our 11 days!" when the calendar went all

peculiar in 1752. This time they will encircle the BBC's Television Centre and demand of Esther "Give us back our 15 minutes!"

But how can we blame our decadent society for this cult of celebrity when Dr Hasani is evidently touched by it too, remote though he is in Albania, where a camcorder would cost him ten years' salary? When he says tonight that meeting Gary Lineker is the most wonderful moment of his life, it is both inspiring and sad, reminiscent of the way that terminally ill children make heart-warming headlines by being photographed with Steve Davis.

Years ago, it seemed odd when in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1949), Linda Loman said of her husband Willy that "he never had his name in the paper". "So what?" I used to think. But if a modern Linda said Willy never had a video on the television, everyone would understand at once that his life had been a total waste of time.

TV PREVIEW

● Court TV: America on Trial (Tonight, Channel 4, 9pm) Among the real-life court cases covered in this bizarre form of entertainment is New York v Hampton, concerning the con-man who infiltrated New York society by claiming to be the son of Sidney Poitier. His story was so good that John Guare wrote a play about it, *Six Degrees of Separation* (now at the Comedy Theatre). Hampton, who could have written his own play along the lines of *Whose Life is This Anyway?* then started to harass Guare for a share of the play's proceeds. Someone should write a play about it, but perhaps no one dares. Meanwhile, will Poitier turn up unexpectedly in the courtroom amid gasps and faintings, claiming to be the real Martin Guerre, or was that another movie? Confused? You will be.

■ TV Hell (Monday, BBC2, 7.30pm) Nothing very hellish about the prospect of five hours of archive stuff, presented by Angus Deayton and Paul Merton, even when the archive stuff promises to give renewed resonance to the term abysmal, with short programmes devoted to such deeply infernal subjects as the *Eurovision Song Contest*, chat show disasters, *It's A Knockout*, and the history of TV-am. I admit I had trouble coming to terms with the concept of *TV Hell* when it was first proposed. To my eternal damnation, no doubt, I dithered over the request form they sent me for the Critics' Choice segment, and failed to send it in. My stumbling-block was in the matter of definitions. Surely the only real sin television can commit is to be forgettable — in which case I'd forgotten it, and wouldn't want to see it again. But, as I suspect we will discover on Monday, the road to *TV Hell* is paved with that kind of literal-mindedness.

● Wayne's World (Wednesday, BBC2, 6.50pm) During Wimbledon this year, you may have noticed a mysterious billboard campaign from Nike in which, against a background of orange, green and purple, were the words "Excellent colours to be worn at Wimbledon. Not!" (or something similar). If you didn't understand this, you were not alone, since Wayne-speak was hardly common parlance at the time. Or, to put that another way, it was common parlance — er, *not*. Anyway, from Wednesday, *Def II* is screening ten-minute segments of the original American *Saturday Night Live* sketches, which introduced Wayne's basement cable television show to a waiting world, (not), and inspired the popular cinema entertainment *Wayne's World*, which is considered — er, awesome by the younger people, m'lud. And this should explain everything.

L.T.

Record review: Benny Green, Paul Weller, Kylie Minogue and a full-blooded Turnage with the CBSO

Two-fisted Green testifies

There was a time when almost any disc bearing the Blue Note logo could be guaranteed to contain a distinctive brand of vivacious, high-quality music. Since its relaunch in 1985, standards have been more erratic, the label struggling to fashion a new identity amid the new wave of ultra-technocrats. Benny Green's live session, *Testifyin'* (Blue Note CDPT-98171) is a much-needed celebration of traditional values.

Not to be confused with his English namesake, Green first attracted attention as the sharpest of the slick young pianists who passed through the backing band of the singer Betty Carter. A spell with Art Blakey's *The Jazz Messengers* followed before Green formed his own trio. *Testifyin'* captures the group in majestic form at New York's Village Vanguard at the end of its inaugural tour.

Green's two-fisted approach blends elements of some of the most soulful pianists without becoming ensnared in reverential tributes. Among the main influences is the underrated trio that Ahmad Jamal ran with the bassist Israel Crosby and the drummer Vernell Fournier in the late 1950s. Green's partners, Christian McBride and Carl Allen, re-create the same impression of spaciousness and controlled aggression.

The most refreshing aspect to this album is its emotional directness: his version of "Down By The Riverside", framed by an infectious vamp, would surely go down well in any Baptist church.

Another of Blue Note's signings, the mercurial Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba, has aroused mixed responses during his visits to London. *Images* (Blue Note CDPT-99492), a live set taped in Japan, showcases the hyperactive drumming of Jack DeJohnette and the equally frenetic bass playing of John Patitucci. Rubalcaba's solos are spun out at a bewildering pace — some of the atonal digressions and note clusters could be mistaken for Cecil Taylor's handiwork. You have been warned.

CLIVE DAVIS



Aural candy: Kylie Minogue

Putting on the image style

At times it has seemed that Paul Weller places clothes sense and political correctness above his music. But running through the former Working mod's work with first, The Jam and subsequently The Style Council and The Paul Weller Movement, has been an obvious love of diverse pop styles and an original, incisive lyrical viewpoint.

A first solo LP, *Paul Weller* (Go Discs 828 343-2) indicates a continuing appetite for everything from 1960s rock to 1990s club grooves, and a still-sharp pen. But the tone is more relaxed, less judgemental than of late, and the recent hit single "Uh-Huh-Oh-Yeh!" leads the way into a confident, mellow-minded set which includes his best work since 1985's "Our Favourite Shop".

By suppressing his tendency towards a hectoring lyrical tone, Weller refocuses attention on his skill as a deft assimilator of recent musical history. But while the lightly jazzy "Round & Round" and "Remember How We Started", or the near-psychedelic "Into Tomorrow", draw their mood from disparate genres, the result is cohesive and unmistakably Welleresque. There is less social commentary

ROCK

than before — his concerns here are more personal than public — but his eye for the telling detail is as keen as ever. It's a confident and enjoyable performance, and sartorial students will be pleased to note that it comes complete with a fold-out sleeve showing the man in presumably essential post-Mod dress — a frilled, collarless shirt and immaculate pin-stripe trousers.

Like Weller, former *Neighbours* star Kylie Minogue knows the importance of a smart appearance. Her changing-room choices veer towards the more minimal, however. She is now such a familiar sight performing near-erotic dance routines on variety shows and Saturday morning television that it's easy to forget she was introduced to us not in a studied busier and busier, but in the garage repair shop chic of her television character Charlene.

Nowadays, every subsequent single release is accompanied by a "new look". Yet the cumulative effect of this hyper-concern with image — she has transformed herself from soap-Kylie to sex-Kylie in four years — has been to render

the parallel music output more or less irrelevant.

Is there any discernible difference between "I Should Be So Lucky", her first Stock Aitken & Waterman-engineered success, and "What Kind of Fool?" her latest? Very little, although her perpetually evolving appearance has ensured that we are invited to read far more sexual significance into her recent work than the cheerfully gauche songs of yesteryear.

As *Greatest Hits* (PWL HS25) proves conclusively, the aural candy of 1988 sounds sadly like the aural candy of 1992: the same tunny vocals, semi-familiar tunes, even the same clichéd sentiments.

The most adept of these pastiches nudge themselves towards perfection within the limitations of disposable, radio-friendly white pop — "Better the Devil You Know" for example, or "Shocked". But packaged together like this, they sound depressingly insubstantial.

Kylie Minogue is an artist for whom image is all, and without the dressing-up box needed to distinguish one song from another, she is left appearing strangely, unflatteringly naked.

ALAN JACKSON

Scrunchy screamer

Expressionistic visions of Velázquez's vision of the image of Pope Innocent X. But creating art is a matter of personal response, not of making something from nothing (unless you are John Cage).

Turnage's music has an impressive immediacy that sometimes verges, one feels, on the naïve, carefully designed and crafted though it is. He does not think to himself how best he can impress; he writes down his feelings directly. *Three Screaming Pops* he explains in his note in terms of moods — a "bell-like summoning", a "scrunchy middle section" and, inevitably, a "bluesy melody for low saxophones and bassoons".

The impression is an overwhelming kaleidoscope of sounds, stammering, lurching, singing and screaming, *distorting* just as Bacon's portraits do. This performance is admirably full-blooded, though the CBSO's strings sometimes sound as though they are struggling a little for the notes.

CLASSICAL

Decca's equivalent to EMI's series is the revived Argo label, devoted to American as well as British music and, as in the old days, choral and organ music in general. Among its recent crop of releases is a disc of three works by Constant Lambert (Decca Argo 436 118-2), that delicate but colourful and versatile figure, author of *Musical Hot*, the highly influential comment on the state of the art in the 1930s, and a member of the Sitwells' circle.

Lambert is not exactly a fashionable figure today, though his extravagant, jazzy piano concerto-cantata, *The Rio Grande*, composed in 1927 to a fairly meaningless but typically clever poem by Sacheverell Sitwell, still gets the occasional airing. This piece, in fact, is the first one on this disc, and the pianist Kathryn Stott, the BBC Singers (slightly dissonant against Lambert's scor-

ing) and, with a brief but telling contribution towards the end, the mezzo soprano Della Jones deserve it with due rhythmic verve and understated brilliance.

The BBC Concert Orchestra plays the score clearly and efficiently under Barry Wordsworth. The same applies to two less well-known pieces, the *Concerto for piano and nine instruments* (again with Stott as soloist), which is an altogether darker, deeper piece, composed in 1930, and dedicated to Peter Warlock, and the suite from the otherwise lost Ashton ballet *Horoscope* (1937), colourful but again not without moment either.

Finally, another Decca release, of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, played by the Cleveland Orchestra, conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi (Decca 430 841-2). It is good to report that Dohnányi lets this music breathe; there is no sense of the self-glorification I felt with Franz Welser-Möst's performance, recorded live at the 1991 Proms and since then highly praised by many colleagues. We are, thank heavens, a broad church.

STEPHEN PETTIT

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

FREDERICK FORSYTH

Where would you go? Salcombe, south Devon, which is probably the prettiest small port in England. It also happens to be the most southerly harbour in England and, therefore, close to the Channel fishing and sharking grounds.

How would you get there? By car, probably the Panther J72, with the top down if the weather was bright and sunny.

Where would you stay? At The Marine Hotel, in a room with a balcony overlooking the harbour.

Who would be your perfect companion? Sandy, my girlfriend. She would spend the day contentedly by the pool or in the solarium while I was out fishing.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take? My three boat rods, from the shark-stick to the light caster; plus wellies, thick socks, jeans, plaid shirt and storm jacket.

Which medicines? Two bottles of decent claret, probably St Emilion, to accompany lunches at sea.

What would you have to eat? At sea, cold roast chicken, hard-boiled eggs, bread, tomatoes, radishes, biscuits and bananas.

What would you have to drink? The medicine.

Which books would you take? None. Returning at dusk after ten hours at sea, the evening calls for a pot of tea on the balcony as the sun goes down — then out to a restaurant for fresh lobster.

What music would you listen to? The cry of gulls and terns, the thump of the engine, the whistle of the wind, the churning of the sea and, hopefully, the creak of a good rod when a heavy fish comes on the hook.

What would you watch on television? Nothing. The point is to try to get away from the blasted thing.

What film would you watch? None. The tossing Channel is more scenic than anything on celluloid.

Would you play any games or sports? Only the fishing.

What piece of art would you like to have there? None. A Tintoretto looks silly in the wheelhouse of a Tuskor 33.

Who would be your least welcome guest? Some optimist who waits until we are ten miles offshore and bobbing nicely before saying he is just the tinniest bit icky and can we turn around and go back please.

What three things would you leave behind? The telephone, the fax and the television.

What three things would you most like to do?

1. Rise at six, drink the flask of tea prepared by the night porter, dress and clump down to the dock to wait for Ted Cooke to bring the Anglo Dawn alongside as agreed at 7am. 2. Watch the harbour and then the coastline fade away into the morning mist. Hit into a big shoal of mackerel and take a dozen beauties on light spinning tackle.



while Ted brings up another 100 on strings of feathers — enough bait for the day. 3. Get strikes from ling, pollock, whiting, conger, coalfish, wrasse and have one of them taken on the reel-in by a big hunting mako prepared to play for an hour.

To whom would you send a postcard? My sons, Stuart and Shane, at Halesbury.

What souvenir would you bring home? The pick of the catch.

What would you like to find when you got home? That not a single letter had arrived and not a single message on the answering machine.

Interview by

Rosanna Greenstreet
● Frederick Forsyth's latest book, *The Deceivers*, will be published next week by Corgi, price £4.99.

Legless ram chalks up blurred romantic engagement

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

IT MAY seem premature to be forecasting a gloomy new year, but I fear that the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" will hang nervously on my lips in 1993. We are like the toy industry here: thinking of Christmas while the summer sun scorches, planning things for Easter while Guy Fawkes smoulders on his bonfire.

In hot July we sowed kale and turnips for the sheep in chilly February; while they eat it we shall be sowing wheat to harvest in the summer, 12 months hence. We hardly ever seem to live in the present and, because the farmer's eye is always cast beyond the horizon, the days and weeks flash by; it becomes difficult to believe that the farming year is 12 whole months; it feels about nine.

And so it was on a hot and humid day last week that, thinking of winter lambs, I went to the field where the ram has been living a

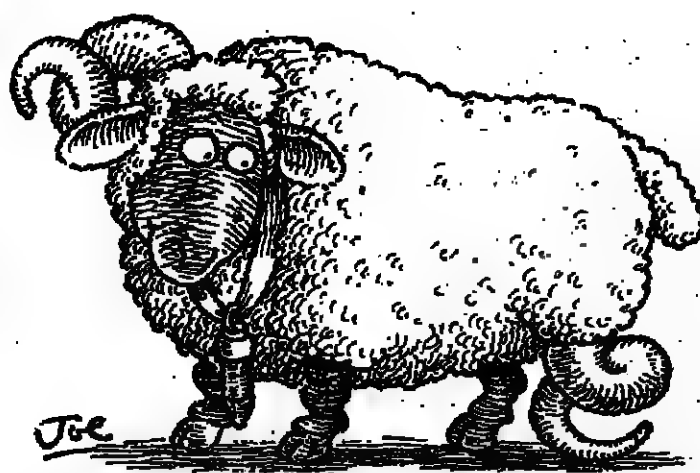
monastic life for the last ten months and penned him in the corner. There I bestowed upon him his chain of office, in the shape of a harness that carries a crayon, brilliant red as a mayoral ruby, strapped between his front legs. It is noticeable that as soon as his eyes fall upon this apparatus — the riddle — he stands very still for it to be adjusted, like a king being crowned. He knows what is coming next. His summer of discontent is about to be made glorious autumn in the company of 40 ewes.

We worked it all out carefully so that the first lambs will be born on New Year's day. This is deliberate. I can usually survive the first six days of Christmas family jollity, but after that I find it very handy to



have a flock of pregnant ewes to keep me out of doors for several hours a day. In fact, I can recommend livestock to anyone who is looking for a solid excuse to avoid relatives. I have often left strained family gatherings muttering, "I'm afraid the old cow has a touch of the sores; I'd better have a look at her back end." Then, heroically and self-sacrificingly, I trudge across the farmyard and have a welcome five minutes peace under the haystack. Hence the new year lambs.

But my little plan may have faltered, and that is why new year may be a strained occasion. I went to see the flock the day after the ram had joined the ewes, in order to count the red crayon marks left by



the ram on the ewes' rumps. There were several, but not the neat businesslike ticks he left last year. This time they had a distinct blur. The reason was clear as soon as I glanced at the old boy — he was

limping like a codger with gout. This was serious. It was one of his back legs which, if you think about it, are more vital than his front ones when it comes to performing his duty. We treated him, and sent him

back to work hoping that he would now have all the support he so desperately needs and that the crayon marks would not slither forlornly sideways any more.

Having sorted January, I decided to take the opportunity of ducking out of the pre-Christmas rush too, by getting Alice, the Large Black sow, in-pig again. Sows gestate for precisely three months, three weeks and three days, so if she is served now she will require my undivided attention slap-bang in the middle of the Christmas shopping season.

I urgently rang round the local breeders to see who might have a Large Black boar. None being available, I decided to conduct an experiment I had been planning for some time: I am going to allow Alice a mixed marriage with a Large White boar. Logic dictates that such a match would provide grey pigs but, in fact, they turn out

spotty, like Dalmatians. They also make, apparently, excellent bacon.

Now, it so happens that friends have a Large White boar, called Cyril. I asked if Cyril was free. Not only was he free, he was willing. So Cyril arrived by trailer to join the ram in the potent chorus now resounding around the farm. I asked, casually, how they came by him and was told he had been given to them by a farmer who wanted rid of him: "He had trouble with his back leg. They were going to put him down but it seemed a shame."

I froze. Two lame lovers is too much for one farmer. I am already very gloomy about Christmas. However, the secret of good farming is to plan ahead. I hear from my wife that some rather distant long-lost cousins are thinking of coming to stay, perhaps next July. I have been to the calendar and counted the days. If I can just get the bull here by next week...

Gardens to visit

□ Oxfordshire village gardens: The Old Rectory, at Salford, comprises one acre of roses, herbaceous borders and foliage plants, shrubs. Willow Tree Cottage has small, walled twin gardens with clematis, shrubs and herbaceous plants, heathers and alpine plants. Salford, 14-2m W of Chipping Norton (off the A44 Oxford-Worcester road). Tomorrow 2-5pm. £1, child free.

□ Yorkshire: The White House, at Hushwaite, has a one-acre garden, open for the first time, with conservatory, shrubs and herbaceous plants, herb gardens and unusual plants. Hushwaite, 3m N of Easingwold, garden in village centre, opposite church. Tomorrow 11am-5pm. £1, child 10p.

□ Warwickshire: Wynton Gardens, the display and trial grounds for the National Centre for Organic Gardening, has herbaceous plants, herbs, fruit, vegetable and rose beds and borders: compost-making. Wynton, 5m SE Coventry on the B4029 (off the A45 to Wolston). Plant sales, only with organic food. Open daily, 10am-6pm. (10am-4pm, Oct-Mar). £3, child free.

Plum job with a tasty future

Francesca Greenoak visits the research nursery where 350 varieties of plums are evaluated and developed

Earlier this week my young son came dashing in from the garden with a ripe plum, the first of the year. It was a Victoria, not a variety greatly prized for flavour, but eaten direct from the tree and still warm from the sun it tasted marvellous.

Given taste like this you can understand why the word plum was used to signify the good things in life. If you were to go only by the mean offerings in some supermarkets and greengrocers, getting the plum job would mean something sour and unsatisfactory. Gardeners know better: we have access to the most delicious fruits, properly ripened on the tree so that the sugars and flavours can develop.

Plum trees will grow in a wide spectrum of soils but, because they flower in early spring, they should be planted

GARDENING

where they are least likely to get frosted. Many, Victoria and Oullins Golden Gage, for example, are self-fertile, so may be planted singly in a smaller garden.

This year, after a frost-free spring, my two Victorias are heavy with fruit, local farmers with orchards are picking apace, and in the hedgerows the Aylesbury Plum, our regional bitter-sweet damson, is cropping hugely.

David Pennell, the director of the Brogdale Horticultural Trust, near Faversham, Kent, says this is an exceptional plum year. The trust's fruit trial ground grows 350 varieties, and the orchards are open to the public. Visitors can taste varieties unavailable anywhere else, and buy freshly picked fruit (at 40p a lb).

Where else could you get the red dessert plum Mallard, raised by Rivers, the renowned Essex nursery. In the late 19th century, or the culinary damsons Curlew and Damson Early Rivers?

In addition to plums from all the famous British nurseries, such as Laxton and Allgrove, Brogdale has representatives from the best French, Belgian, German and American growers, and others even further afield. One can compare the English greengage (grown in Britain since the early 17th century) with the similar but larger French Reine Claude varieties.

New varieties as well as old are grown and evaluated at Brogdale, which has a scientific status. This year, for the first time, some new dessert plums bred at the Long Ashton research station, Bristol, will be available. These have a US



Taste test: Gillian Ivison, a technical assistant at the Brogdale Horticultural Trust's trial gardens, checks progress

variety, known as Reeve's Seedling, in their breeding and according to Mr Pennell are very promising.

Brogdale has changed over 20 years from an inward-looking government establishment, closed to the public, to an open and outgoing outfit

which is introducing more and more people to the joys of fruit growing. Many varieties which are unsuitable for commercial use are perfect for domestic gardens, and Brogdale not only sells its surplus fruit but nursery stock of unusual varieties.

Brogdale Gardens, just outside Faversham, Kent, will be open daily over the bank holiday week end, 11am-5pm. Each day there will be guided walks through the collections (which include apples, pears and cherries), various tastings and fruit for sale. Usual opening times: Wed-Sun, 11am-5pm. £2, child 50p.

Events

□ Bristol craft Countryside skills, music and entertainment, stalls and displays. Oakwell Hall Country Park, Bristol, W. Yorks (0824 474924).

Tomorrow, 11am-4pm. Free. □ British Birdwatching Fair: Hundreds of stands and workshops, bird races, wildlife art exhibitions (including working artists), plus high-quality birdwatching. Whitwell Fishing Lodge, Rutland Water, Oakham, Leics (0180 66770). Fri. 10am-5.30pm. £5, child free.

□ Cratich Flower show: Traditional country show including fruit, flowers, children's art and home-baking. Cratich Country Park, Liverpool, Merseyside (051 288 5311). Tomorrow and Mon, 11am.

□ Edebridge and Osted show: Livestock competitions, produce and flowers. Ardenrun, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, Surrey (0737 645843). Tomorrow and Mon, 8am-6pm. £5, cones £2.

□ Eye show: Craft stalls, model displays and the JCB Dancing Diver. Showground, Dragon Hill, Eye, Suffolk (0379 870224). Tomorrow and Mon, 10am-7pm. £4.

□ Felstead carnival: Traditional pastimes and fair, with a parade and fireworks. Felstead High School, Garrison Lane, Felstead, Suffolk (0394 382684). Today 2pm (parade 2pm) and tomorrow noon; fireworks 9pm. £1, child free.

□ Greenodds show: Fiftieth anniversary event, with classes for flowers, fruit and vegetables, floral art, cookery, handicrafts and children's work. Greenodds village hall, near Overton, Cumbria (0329 861317). Today, 2pm-5.30pm.

□ Hawkhead walk: Leisurely ramble to Goosey Foot Tarn. Bring boots. Hawkhead Information Centre, Cumbria (05394 36425). Tomorrow, 10.30am. Free.

□ Kewick ramble: Grade 2 guided walk, over Walla Crag, lasting 3-4 hours. Discovery Centre, Lake Road, Keswick (07687 72803). Tomorrow, 2pm. Free.

□ Southwell flower festival: The whole minute becomes a floral area: displays are based around the theme of albigens. The Minster, Southwell, Notts (0536 812649). Today and tomorrow, 10am-5pm. £2.

□ Wokingham horse trials: Beater Homes pre-novice, novice and open novice classes. Wokingham Equestrian Centre, Finchampstead, Berks (0734 775549). Today and Sun, 10am, free.

□ Worthing fair: Sheepdog trials, falconry, gundog displays, open farm and a working corn mill. Worthing Country Park, Barnsley, S. Yorks (0226 246272). Tomorrow and Mon, noon-5.30pm. £2, cones £1.

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Feather report



Defiant: long-tailed duck

The government is a bunch of fair-weather conservationists. It will go along with the needs of conservation until that point arrives when conservation becomes ever so slightly inconvenient, or a tiny bit against the demands of industry and money. And at that moment, all the platitudes about "commitment to the environment" go out of the window.

The most recent example comes with the granting of oil exploration licences. The government did indeed consult conservation bodies about the places they proposed to offer. And it did withdraw a large number of proposed sites. Should we rejoice because now only 25 per cent of the irreplaceable wildlife habitats will be affected?

The advice of conservationists was taken in some areas, but in other areas — where there were particularly exciting possibilities for the oil explorer — the conservation arguments failed to convince.

The best example is probably the inner Moray Firth, where oil exploration licences are on offer, even though exploration and production elsewhere in the firth have caused a number of pollution incidents. More than 250,000 seabirds nest here in spring and summer, mostly razorbills and gulls. The firth also brings in internationally important numbers of sea ducks, including long-tailed ducks.

These are gloriously indomitable birds. They are tiny things, the male with a ridiculously long tail, and seem to revel in horrible weather. The more gruesome the sea the more they seem to like it, bobbing up and down with an air of jaunty defiance. The Moray Firth is their special place: in

course, but at sea, out of sight of most people, they can.

The real problem is not so much the threat of a big oil spill, but the cast-iron certainty of chronic pollution. Big platforms inevitably produce discharges. To set up oil production means the inevitable deterioration of that area.

Some bits of sea are less important for wildlife than others but, even after pruning, the bunch of sites offered for exploration licences still includes an alarming number of important areas. Among these are areas in the Solway Firth, Cardigan Bay, the English Channel, the Bristol Channel, and the southern basin off the Wash and the Humber.

Conservation organisations are now involved in damage-limitation exercises. The problem is that there is no good time for an industrial operation in a chunk of ocean that is important to wildlife for 12 months of the year. The lobbying must be for strict conditions, and strict enforcement.

One of these conditions must be the continuous monitoring for pollution. There is little point in doing the monitoring at predictable intervals: that is a system asking to be abused. It is also important to work against an action replay of the whole thing. And this remains an ever-present danger for as long as we have a bunch of fair-weather conservationists in power.

SIMON BARNES

What's above: Birds — look for shearwaters and petrels on reservoirs. Twickers — lesser yellowlegs on St Marys. Isles of Scilly: great snipe and woodcock strike on Fairlie. Details from Birdline. 0898 700222.

Fashion

THEATRE

THE SUNDAY

man on the mo

New sounds mixed up with vision

David Toop finds that rock pioneer Brian Eno has lost none of his enthusiasm for new ideas and technical innovations

If the prophets of doom are to be believed, contemporary culture is a sad shadow of past glories, depleted by declining standards, shallow pastiche and a lack of revolutionary spirit.

One of the few rock musicians, artists and cultural commentators who can offer a convincing rebuttal of this pessimism is Brian Eno. Despite his 44 years, an age when most people are beginning to hanker for the old days, his enthusiasm for the present remains unabashed.

"It's a great time," he says, sitting in the bay window of his sparsely-furnished northwest London workroom. "I don't think music has been so unsure of itself or so fluid in its identity for 25 years." The embrace of uncertainty as a positive value is typical of Eno and his serpentine career. His new album, *Nerve Net*, proclaims its weaknesses as strengths. This record is off balance, the potential listener is warned in a list that comes with the packaging. It is overheated, un-American, far too vague, uncentered.

This reaction against the glossy perfectionism of mainstream pop or the self-righteous tunnel vision of rock's specialised genres maintains attitudes that Eno brought to pop music during the early Seventies.

Originally the non-musician art student who provided primitive synthesizer noises for Roxy Music in its earliest incarnation, Eno now finds himself respected as an unlikely prophet of musical and video developments. His solo albums still have the power to surprise after more than a decade of hearing excerpts from them in television documentaries and films. He is also acclaimed for his collaborations with U2, David Bowie, John Cale and Talking Heads and continues to be influential as a pioneer of so-called "ambient music".

Aside from his dubious appropriation by New Age for therapeutic mood music, ambient has been recognised recently in two very different spheres of activity. In New York at the beginning of August, a large orchestra under the direction of Philip Glass performed three of the ambient songs from *Low*. One of the

three Berlin-period albums recorded during the late Seventies by David Bowie with Brian Eno, *Low* was a springboard for the electronic music which followed punk.

Benused as he is by the prospect of such fugitive atmospheres being thrust into the concert hall by Philip Glass, Eno has been equally surprised to find his ideas resurfacing in dance clubs and House music raves. As they became increasingly frenetic, the machine rhythms of House music seemed to demand a counter-balance of quiet introspection, if only to calm the pulse rates of dancers who wanted to sleep at the end of a long night. Mixed with sound effects and drum rhythms, the evanescent drones of Eno albums such as *Music For Airports* or his soundtrack to the film of the Apollo moon missions, *For All Mankind*, were perfect for the task.

Eno originally described the purpose of ambient music as a way of taming the environment. Now our environment is so saturated with sound, the problem lies in selecting from the swamp. As a pioneer of recording studio and synthesizer experiments, he has often criticised technology for its emphasis on increasing options at the expense of usability. Musically, however, Eno is inspired by trends which have resulted from technological advances.

Last year he was poised to release an album called *My Squelchy Life*. At the last moment, the release plans were scrapped. Taking the two oddest but most promising tracks from *My Squelchy Life*, Eno began again.

Records are scrapped and restarted frequently, usually because artists fail to connect with their muse, yet few are abandoned with Eno's honest appreciation that what he had produced could be pushed into far more challenging areas.

Nerve Net sounds like the work of a revitalised man, a diagnosis which Eno cheerfully admits. "One reason was purely technical," he explains. The CD format is a way of fitting varying lengths of music onto discs. It allows listeners the choice of programming their preferences, deleting



Brian Eno: now finds himself respected as an unlikely prophet of musical and video developments

the tracks they dislike and re-ordering the sequence of the ones they choose to hear.

"When it was vinyl," he says, "you assumed that people were going to listen all the way through. You tend to think you've got to make a coherent listening experience. It made record-making less and less fun for me, because it meant that one tended to censor the things that were nuttier and less well-formed in favour of the things that were more acceptable."

He relates the second reason for his revitalisation with some amusement. "I suddenly discovered myself to be a

post-modernist," he jokes, "in the sense that I was noticing myself more and more interested by the whole re-mixing scene." One example of this new interest was Eno's re-mix of EMF's "Unbelievable" for an AIDS benefit project, while his first single from the new album, "Fractal Zoom", is available in at least seven versions.

Remixing, by which original tapes are reworked and reissued in forms that can sometimes be totally unconnected to their source, has the effect of distancing musicians from their creations and eroding the concept of a

finished, perfect art work. Such controversial notions lie at the heart of so much of the anxiety which surrounds current cultural debate.

But far from being worried by the possible consequences of artists becoming catalysts rather than authors, possibly losing ownership of their work in the process, Eno is as enthusiastic as ever. "I think," he says, smiling with the wicked gleam of a man who is already anticipating ways of avoiding this fate, "that's a terribly exciting and modern idea."

● *Nerve Net* is released by Warner Brothers on Monday

Belated return of the native

CONCERTS

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

No longer is Donald Runnicles without honour in his own country. The Edinburgh-born conductor, who has found glory in Freiburg, Bayreuth, the Met, and now as musical director of San Francisco Opera, finally arrived in his home town with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra a year after his belated Glyndebourne debut.

The Usher Hall was far from full to hear him, and it was not an exceptional festival debut. But this was an exceptional programme in which to show his mettle. The token Tchaikovsky (more, much more, still to come), was the Suite No 4, "Mozartiana", which showed that Tchaikovsky, too, was aware of centuries.

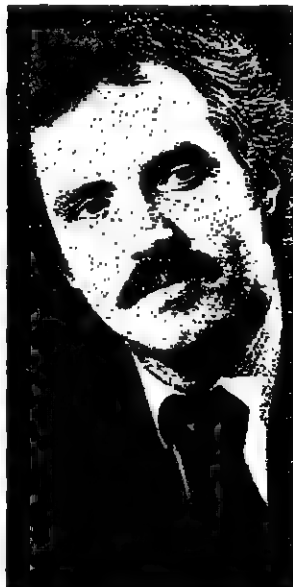
The piece he composed, somewhat evangelically, for the centenary of Don Giovanni, was conducted and played with a relaxed, almost languid, swagger. It took Verdi's *Nabucco* for Runnicles to show a little more of the stuff of which he is made. With his expressive right hand (the baton is in his left) drawing bright, clear lines from the violins, and light, swift vibrato from the centrally placed cell, this was a sinewy performance, revealing every strand of text and sub-text in Schoenberg's recreation of Dehmel's poem.

Runnicles and his band were little more than obedient accompanists to Isabelle Vernet's singing of Berlioz's *Nuits d'été*. Vernet, a finalist in the Cardiff "Singer of the World" competition, has a marvellously enthusiastic stage presence, and the unashamedly gleeful opening was promising. As a whole, though, this performance was more likeable in its intentions than in its realisation.

The bright, flaring top of Vernet's soprano gives it its distinctive character: the same energy and communication, though, does not colour the voice all the way through. It is almost as if there were two voices. The mezzo register, in which she barely breathed out "Le Spectre de la Rose" is not yet as focussed or as secure. And where one takes over from the other — exactly, as it happens, on the tricky "bien-aimée" of "Absence" — there can be a temporary loss of power. One longed for just a little tempering of her own, generous instinct with the

classical sculpting of that most notable exponent of this cycle, her own teacher, Régine Crespin.

Wednesday's late-night recital at the Usher Hall was a real festival occasion. The young pianist, Benjamin Frith (as with Runnicles, we hear too little of him in Britain) gave a truly memorable performance of Beethoven's



Donald Runnicles: at the helm in San Francisco

Ven's *Diabelli Variations*. Frith's playing is young, green, full of wonder, but not over-full of reverence, which helps a lot in this piece.

Technically, his pianism is mature, make no mistake. But the eagerness with which he tunes his imagination to the very soul of each variation, and the joy with which he characterises it, is, delightfully, still that of youth. Whether trilling haughtily, or finding an inner resonance embedded within sober counterpoint, Frith takes the listener to the heart of Beethoven. I have not heard so much, so beautifully, in the work since Richter.

HILARY FINCH

Fashionably feudal family

THEATRE

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Where a good production of *The Voyage* advances like a river in flood, reshaping the profile of its hitherto safe banks (that is the professional middle-classes, Granville Barker's other best-known play, *The Madras House* (Royal Lyceum), resembles a sequence of great lakes, through which the action proceeds, past superficially similar shores. Young Phil Madras is the affable, slightly priggish, emotionally restricted hero through whose eyes we see the changing landscapes of that Edwardian *terra incognita*, the Woman's Question.

At the start Roger Allam's Phil is determined to sell the family business, a distinguished fashion house founded by his father, in order to stand for election to the London County Council. At the end of the fourth act he holds to his decision and has perhaps become marginally more broad-minded. The main plot is nothing more, but within each act he is involved in smaller, independent plots



Roger Allam: affable, priggish, emotionally restricted

that present women in different states of subservience to man.

Peter James's enjoyable production (due at the Lyric, Hammersmith, next Wednesday) illuminates the purpose of the play through inspired scene-changing. Mannequins

in petticoats step down from shop windows and perform circus tricks at the start of the play, tossing handkerchiefs, balancing plates and, in the centre of the line, emphatically facing one of their number into a corner. The girls reappear as Phil's six unmarried cousins, kept idle in the parental home at Denmark Hill; then as the underpaid workers in the family business, living on the premises under the stern eye of a housekeeper and afraid to admit to marriage lest they lose their jobs.

In the Bond Street act they are mannequins once more, decked in the gaudy finery of the latest Madras collection, too tightly laced to sit down. And at the end of each act they step together onto the stage, disconcerting Phil with their silent presence, and shift the furniture.

This brilliant idea does far more than economise on casting. It places in the forefront, albeit with a comic gloss, the hypocrisies of the men's regard for the creatures whose lives they control. The portly American financier (Bill Bailey) who is buying the business rhapsodises over feminine

grace but will readily capitalise on the future growth of the Women's Movement. Phil's father, Constantine, played with grizzly elegant disdain by John Hallam, takes male self-interest to its extreme by exiling himself to Arabia and changing his faith — "A Muhammadan? At your age?" From Denmark Hill the unmarried Huxtable girls gaze at the fairytale Crystal Palace; the Madras House is described as an Oriental seraglio, and given chairs and a tablecloth to match. Constantine cuts through the hypocrisy and becomes a pasha in all but name.

The first two acts contain the major dramatic interest. Relationships are uncovered and vibrate with potential. The inert future of the Huxtable ménage is caught in the moment when 11 characters stand paralysed by silence. As a contrast to this prospect the pregnant seamstress Miss Yates (Suzanna Hamilton) shows a plucky independence that must have shocked Barker's audience in 1908.

In the over-long philosophising of the second half the play's interest diminishes but excellent acting all down the line captures the sound and deportment of that semi-feudal age.

The second Barker production this week, *His Majesty* (St Bride's Centre) is its world premiere. Written in 1928, when the author's powers as a writer had waned, the play was twice nearly put on at the time but never made it. Sam Walters's staging (coming to the Orange Tree at Richmond next Thursday) reveals its many faults while allowing us to see that, occasionally, Barker retained his ability to animate a theme. The exiled King of Carpathia decides to re-enter his stricken country to bring its warring sides together. His firebrand aide and out-of-touch queen find themselves outwitted by opportunist politicians and the king decides to return to his poultry farm. Some exchanges glimmer with life but there is a conference table in every scene, around which characters worldly conifer. Theatrical surprise is low on the agenda.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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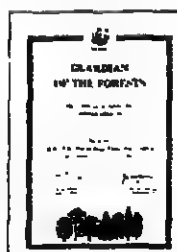
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The man on the mobile phone

He's the sort of person who, if you phoned him and burst into tears, would be round in two seconds. He's incredibly charming — not in a smarmy way, and not in that frightfully British, tedious way, but just the sort of person who, if you sit next to him at dinner, really draws you out. He's very attractive — though not a ladykiller. Once you're going out with him, that's it. He's a sort of one-woman man.

An insider's profile of the man who is probably closer to Princess Diana than her husband.
In *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Holiday tops and tails

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, with entertaining ideas for the long weekend



AFTER last week's cool meat main courses, here are some ideas for topping and tailing a meal. Like the meat recipes, they are capable of being doubled and tripled to suit a buffet table, or they can be served as part of a more formal meal. They are not difficult or expensive recipes, and do not keep you too long in the kitchen, which makes them ideal for bank holiday entertaining, if you have a house full of people.

I have cooked the bean dish several times during the summer as an alternative to hummus. Like the chickpea purée, it is very good with crudites or eaten with toast or warm pitta bread. If you are cooking old beans with tough skins, you can rub these off after the beans have cooked. Drain and rinse the beans, and put in a bowl of cold water. Rubbing them between your fingers will cause the beans to pop out of their skins, which will float to the top of the water, so you can scoop them out.

The potato salad is excellent, an idea from my friend John Cavacuzzi. The dried tomatoes were my idea, but the salad is just as good without them.

The first time I made the coconut ice-cream, I was rather taken aback. It tasted so, well, commercial. The texture was extremely smooth and the flavour good. I had even made it with semi-skimmed milk, which was all I had in the refrigerator. Then it occurred to me that coconut, in one of its many guises, must play a large part in some of the "non-dairy" ice-creams that are produced. It is as well to be aware that it is a saturated fat, like dairy fat, but that said, it is a very good "ice", perhaps not an ice-cream, and at least you know exactly what goes into it. As well as the accompanying macaroons, I also like to serve it with jagged, a treacle-like substance made from palm sugar. You can find it in Indian food shops, a hard chunk often wrapped in a sacking covering. I put it in a saucepan over a

low heat, with slightly more than an equal volume of water, let it melt, skim any impurities off the surface and then, when it is cool, I pour it into a clean, dry plastic juice bottle, and keep it in the refrigerator. It is wonderful poured over thick Greek yoghurt, sprinkled with toasted seeds and nuts.

White bean purée
(makes about 1lb/455g)
2 sprigs summer savory or rosemary
1/2 lb/230g jumbo lima beans, cannellini beans, haricot or butter beans
3 or 4 cloves fresh garlic, or more if you like
extra virgin olive oil
lemon juice
freshly ground black pepper
sea salt

Soak the beans overnight with a sprig of herbs. Change the water, and then cook until tender. Peel and roughly chop the garlic, and put in a blender or food processor with the beans, a couple of tablespoons of their cooking liquid, the fresh sprig of herbs, stripped from the stem, and about 1/4 pt/70ml olive oil. Blend until smooth. Add a little of the lemon juice, salt and pepper, blend again, and adjust the seasoning. Spoon into a serving bowl.

Potato salad with Parma ham and dried tomatoes
(serves 4)
1 1/2 lb/680g small, firm waxy potatoes, such as Belle de Fontenay, La Ratte or Pink Fir Apple
4 pieces dried tomato
3oz/85g Parma ham pieces
3oz/85g soured cream
freshly ground pepper
fresh lovage, shredded (optional)
chives, shallots or spring onions (optional)

Scrub and boil the potatoes. While they are cooking, cut the tomato and ham into thin shreds. Drain the potatoes, and mix in the cream, pepper and herbs, and then add the ham and tomatoes. Make sure the salad is well mixed before serving it. If making this for larger numbers, among whom are

vegetarians, mix one large batch of potatoes with all the ingredients, except the Parma ham. Serve half the potatoes in one bowl, garnished with shreds of ham. Add stoned, chopped olives and toasted sunflower seeds to the other bowl.

Gazpacho
(serves 6-8)
2 1/2 lb/1.10kg ripe sweet tomatoes
1 large cucumber
1 or 2 green peppers
1/4 pt/280ml extra virgin olive oil
10oz/280g fresh white breadcrumbs
salt, pepper
sherry vinegar
iced water
2 or 3 slices of day-old bread, garnish

You can keep the soup rough and rustic, or make a smoother version by peeling the vegetables. I find it slightly more digestible if I peel the peppers after roasting or grilling them. And having gone to that trouble, I usually also peel and seed the tomatoes, and then strip off most of the cucumber skin with

a potato peeler. The seeds can be scooped out, if you have the cucumber lengthways.

Roughly chop the vegetables, separately, and keep back a little to chop finely and serve as a garnish together with the bread, crusts removed, and diced. Put the vegetables in a blender goblet or food processor, and blend until smooth. With the motor running, add the olive oil and breadcrumbs alternately. This can all be done in batches if necessary. Pour into a large bowl. Season to taste with salt, pepper and sherry vinegar, and add ice cubes to chill it thoroughly. If you prefer a thinner soup, iced water can also be added.

I have it on the best authority, Maria-José Sevilla, writer and presenter of *Spain on a Plate* (and author of the accompanying book of the same title), that there are as many versions of gazpacho as there are cooks who make it. There is one made of beans: a pale one, *gazpacho blanco*, made from ground almonds, and one in which melon is the base. It makes sense

chilled melons are Spanish, summery and full of liquid.

A French chef based in Madrid, made the melon version for me once, and I rather liked it. I use the same method as outlined, replacing the tomatoes with a Galia or Honeydew melon, keep the cucumber, leave out the pepper, and use half breadcrumbs and half ground almonds. The olive oil is, of course, essential. For garnish, I serve diced melon, toasted flaked almonds and a little diced apple mixed with lemon juice.

Easy fruit shortbread

This is not so much a recipe, more a suggestion open to many permutations. I first made it with shortbread biscuits that I had made myself, and then one day, driving through Aberlour in Speyside, we came across the Joseph Walker village shop and bought the new farmhouse shortbread. It is perfect for this recipe, firm enough not to go soggy but tender and crumbly. Spread the shortbread pieces with a generous layer of thick yoghurt.

crème fraîche or whipped cream, flavoured with *eau de vie* or liqueur, if you like. Top this with sliced plums or strawberries, whole blackberries, raspberries or blueberries or apple slices fried in butter. Dust with icing sugar or cinnamon, if appropriate. Whisky-flavoured whipped cream into which you have folded clear honey can be topped with toasted oatmeal and almonds, as another variation.

Coconut ice-cream
(makes about 1 pt/570ml)
Note: this recipe uses uncooked eggs
7fl oz/200ml milk
2oz/60g desiccated coconut
1/2 lb/110g sugar
2 free-range egg yolks, lightly beaten
14fl oz/400ml coconut cream

Bring the milk and coconut to the boil, and stir in the sugar. Pour the mixture over the eggs in a bowl and whisk. Add the coconut cream and thoroughly blend. Allow to cool then freeze the mixture. If using the freezer rather than an ice-cream maker or sorbatière, stir the mix-

ture from time to time, sides to middle, to ensure smooth, even freezing. Just before final freezing, it is a good idea to blend it in a food processor for half a minute or so, as this lightens the mixture. Ripen off in the refrigerator for half an hour or so unless you are serving the ice-cream as soon as it is made.

This next recipe makes a good accompaniment to the ice-cream.

Coconut macaroons
(makes 2 dozen)
4-5oz/110-140g desiccated coconut
2 egg whites
3tbsp caster sugar
1tbsp cornflour

Mix all the ingredients together, which will produce a fairly firm paste, which can be shaped with two teaspoons into quenelles and placed on a baking tray lined with baking parchment. Bake in the middle of a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, for 15 minutes, and then for a further 15 minutes at 150C/300F, gas mark 2. Cool on a wire rack.

At last, a quality to call our own

English vignerons are beating the weather to produce fine wines, says Jane MacQuitty

Once a poor gustatory joke, now fit for the Queen and the president of France, English wine has arrived. No doubt wine connoisseurs Sir Ewen Ferguson, the British Ambassador in Paris, knew just how helpful serving a 1989 Chiddingstone from Kent, at an embassy banquet this summer, would be to the burgeoning English wine industry. But behind the headlines, and endless rounds of European diplomacy over the past decade, the vignerons of England, Wales and Ireland have been quietly improving their wine skills. Gone are the monstrous, malodorous English wines of old, reeking of common winemaking faults such as hydrogen sulphide and an excess of sulphur. In their place are elegant, light floral white wines whose refreshingly high acidity and low alcohol make them an ideal first course and fish wine, as Sir Ewen demonstrated to the French.

With more than 1,000 of England's acres under vine, together with over 400 vineyards, English wine production, the French winemakers will be irritated to learn, is about to become part of the European wine hierarchy. As yet there is only a pilot quality English wine scheme in place, introduced last summer. But if the bureaucrats have their way and our acreage reaches 500 hectares and production rises to 25,000 hectolitres, then an official English quality wine scheme, our answer to the French *appellation d'origine* system, could be established. Deemed still to be experimental, English wine now only fits into a lowly *vin de table* category.

Not all of England's vignerons are happy with their new European wine status; to date Europe's wine laws forbid the use of hybrids, hardy weather-resistant vine cross breeds such as *seyval blanc*, upon which the English wine industry relies. There is also the problem of the minimum natural 6 per cent wine alcohol level, which some varieties do not reach in cold years such as '91.

Clearly these two issues will have to be resolved before Britain can join the big European wine league.



Pride of England: not yet in the big league, but wineries such as Chiltern Valley are making their mark

Cold, frost and rain do not stop courageous, some would say foolhardy, Brits from planting in waterlogged vineyards

It would be helpful, too, if the Brussels bureaucrats removed the confusion that exists in consumers' minds between English and British wines, with their misleading, old-fashioned names. English wine is made from freshly pressed grapes grown on English soil: the only connection British wine has with England's green and pleasant land is that it is fermented here from a base of foreign, concentrated grape juice, usually imported from Germany or Italy.

In the meantime, helped by Royal approval and a series of sunny vineyards, English wine moves onwards and upwards. 1991 was disappointing for most English wine producers and 1992, so far, looks like going the same way. But unusually warm years have produced wines such as the positive, full-flavoured '89s and the classically delicious '90s, which are on sale now (see box above). New technology and bigger vineyards, including the 65-acre Wellow property in Hampshire and the 250-acre Denbies Estate in Surrey, have also aided the English wine cause.

Once embarrassingly bad winemakers, England's producers are now experimenting with oak ageing, *méthode champenoise* sparkling wines and red wine production. Surprisingly good wines have been made as a result,

with the most impressive to date perhaps being the Boscleigh Manor in Devon's 1990 Cabernet-Merlot blend. The use of new grape crosses and better vineyard management, including protecting the grapes from predators such as birds and badgers and leaving grapes to ripen fully, have also raised English wine quality.

Despite these encouraging wine trends, faulty English wines with basic errors such as dirty winemaking taints, or an overdose of sulphur, continue to be made. Thankfully, these problems are now in the minority. But a criticism that can still be applied to the

majority is often a lack of fruit and flavour. In part this skimpy style is due to our climate: the worse examples are those extra dry, extra thin English wines that suffer from the same problems as Germany's characterless, bone-dry trocken wines. However, England's wine producers of both the dry and more common medium-dry style need to concentrate more on ringing every ounce of fruit flavour and individuality from their grapes. Another contributing factor to the somewhat uniform, lean, flowery English wine style could be the fact that many of the smaller producers send their grapes away to be vinified at the nearest large winery.

English wine's biggest problem, apart from its high price-tag, is our poor climate. Although most English wine producers are reluctant to admit it, Britain is on the most northerly latitude for grape growing. This means that despite ameliorating influences such as the Gulf Stream and even the greenhouse factor, English wine in many vineyards, including this year and last, will be severely hampered by cold, frost and rain.

However, this does not stop courageous, some would say foolhardy, Brits from planting vines far north as Cheshire (for example, the new nine-acre Carden Park estate) or in north-facing, water-

Best buys

● 1990 Valley Vineyards Fumé Blanc, 3 Harcourt Street, London W1, £9.15; Wine Rack and Bottoms Ltd, £7.95. Splendid aromatic oak bouquet and stylish, grapey palate puts this ahead of the English wine pack.
● 1990 Tenterden Cinqve Post Classic. Davisons, £4.49, which also stocks the '86 vintage for the same price. Asks less the '89 for £3.99. Safety, £4.19; Vic Wine, £4.79. A good, reasonably priced, spicy, flowery introduction to the delights of English wine.
● Lambourn Sovereign. Medium Dry. Sainsbury, £3.75; Davisons, £4.49. Almost as pleasant as the wine above, though slightly sweeter and made from a variety of grapes, this is a very easy-drinking white.
● 1990 Denbies Surrey Gold. Safety, £5.25; The Victoria Wine Company, £5.49. Delicately grapey peachy flavours are elevated by a touch of rindling.
● 1989 Bred Valley Baccarat. Oudins, £6.99. This excellent organic English white displays the exotic fruit and spice of the bacchus grape.

logged, frost-pocket vineyards. Still our new-found winemaking and managing abilities should enable some of England's winemakers to overcome the worst of our weather.

England's best wines are mostly of medium-dry, Germanic style that have had their harsh corners rubbed off with some sweetness, usually in the shape of *süss reserve* or unfermented grape juice. Purists need not worry: these wines mostly taste fruity rather than overly sweet. A newer, drier English wine style, more akin, say, to the dry, northern, oak-aged whites of France, is also emerging, with Valley Vineyards Fumé and Tenterden's Special Reserve the most successful example of this style.

A good place to taste and buy English wines is the English Wine Festival, held next weekend from 11am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday, at the English Wine Centre, Alfriston Roundabout, Alfriston, East Sussex (0323 870164). The entrance fee each day is £7.25 a head, which includes eight tasting vouchers and a wine glass. More than 40 English wine producers will take part, offering more than 100 wines to taste.

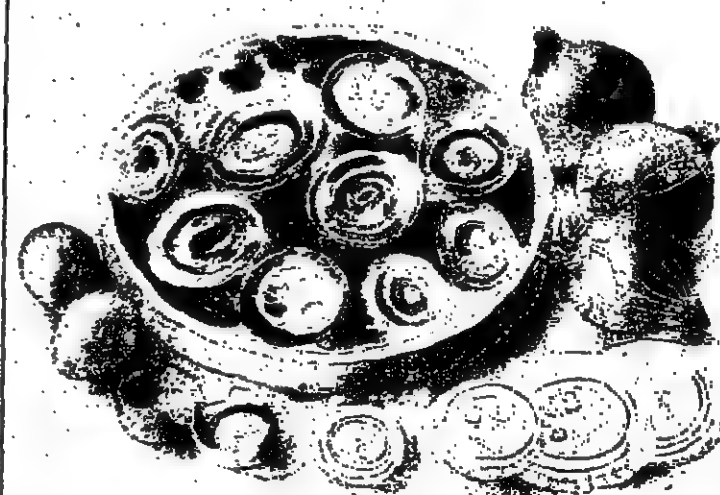
English wine devotees should also visit Harcourt Fine Wine, 3 Harcourt Street, London W1, which has almost 70 different English and Welsh wines on sale.

FRANCE

FRENCH CLASSICS

TARTE AUX OIGNONS A L'ALSACIENNE

OR ZEWELWAI



A reader has asked me not to complete my series on classic French dishes without including onion tart. I have no intention of doing so, because I agree that this dish is not the same as quiche Lorraine. The two are from neighbouring regions, but in the quiche it is the quality of the custard and the pastry that are important, while in the onion tart, only sufficient egg and cream is added to bind the onion together.

The Alsace dish takes more time and patience than the quiche. The onions must be cooked very slowly to achieve a translucent melting texture, and a sweet flavour without the caramelisation that comes from too high heat. Look for mild, sweet onions. Freshly dug bulbs can be used; indeed, in Alsace they make a version with spring onions, adding some of the green tops.

The best *tarte aux oignons* — or *zewelwai* to use its Alsace name — I have tasted was in the Caveau d'Eguisheim, a restaurant started more than 30 years ago by Léon Beyer, the father of one of the present-day winemakers, as a showcase for Alsace food and wine. We drank a crisp 1985 Riesling with the tart.

(serves 6-8)
For pastry case:
5 lb/230g flour
1/2 lb/110g unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
1 tsp salt
1 pt/570ml iced water

Rub the flour and butter together until it resembles breadcrumbs or pellets. Sprinkle on the salt, and stir in enough water to bind the pastry together. Wrap and refrigerate while you make the onion filling.

For the filling:
3oz/85g butter
1 1/2 lb/680g peeled and thinly sliced onions
1tbsp flour
1/4 pt/280ml single cream or full-cream milk
salt, pepper
freshly grated nutmeg
3 size-3 free-range eggs

Melt the butter in a heavy frying pan and gently fry the onions until beginning to get soft, translucent and just starting to turn colour. Remove from the heat, sprinkle on the flour, and gradually stir in the cream. Bring to the boil, stirring continuously, and cook for five minutes. Season with salt and pepper, and grind in a little fresh nutmeg. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, away from the heat.

Line a 10in/25cm quiche or pie dish with pastry; pour in the filling. Place the dish on a baking sheet in a pre-heated oven, 200C/400F, gas mark 6 for about 35 minutes, until the top is golden brown. Can be served at any temperature; I prefer it warm.

F.B.
● This is the last in our series of French classic recipes.

طبخة من المطبخ

Crafty new change of plot

Over the counter: How do farmers with set-aside land spend their time?

Helen Speed finds an answer

The typical farm shop used to be an egg-and-potatoes affair with, in Somerset, the enticement of Cheddar cheese. Now, on the A41 in Bucklebury, between Aylesbury and Bicester, farmer William Hunter has found ways of keeping a set-aside farm alive with home-baked cakes, silk scarves and furniture, and for townies a glimpse of the rural life.

A small herd of Highland cattle, red and the rarer black variety, provides its own photo-opportunity as you drive into the yard. Mr Hunter brought them down from his native Scotland.

His is the farm where, they say, the Aylesbury duck originated, but the pond, "2ft of water, 12ft of solid mud", was filled in to become a tennis court after a small Hunter nephew almost fell in. The only large birds to be seen around the farm now are wooden geese, hand-crafted as garden decorations and awaiting buyers.

Fleet Marston farmhouse, said to be 340 years old, has 200-year-old outbuildings which are being restored one by one as the customers' needs expand. The business started seven years ago with eggs and potatoes sold at the back door, then Anne Hunter added cakes, pies and other home-bakes that were so popular that they had to persuade neighbouring farmers' wives to get out their baking bowls and lend a hand.

Now, 17 people are involved in producing the appetising spread of meringues, jams, ice-cream, quiches, chutneys and pickled onions, each doing what they do best. At weekends, a judge stocks up with the farm shop's pies to microwave during the week at his home in London.

Mr Hunter says that most customers return, and to keep them coming the merchandise has to evolve.

From lambswool sweaters to teddy bears, the gifts on offer are high-quality items, as are the wraps and stationery sold alongside. Mr Hunter's farm is the only place to go locally on a Sunday for a last-minute greetings card.

The Hunters bought the farm in 1963 from Mrs Hunter's parents, and over the years dairy cattle and cattle-breeding kept them busy. "In the late 1960s, and then in the 1970s, the government encouraged us to drain the land and there was a good subsidy," Mr Hunter says. Then we were encouraged to produce corn, which we did until two years ago, when the market

went downhill. The growing costs were high, returns poor, and then along came the set-aside grant.

"We sowed the land down to grass, producing hay for the horses and deer. The Highland cattle are just my hobby and I've given them to my daughter Jeanie, who co-ordinates our catering."

With George, a toddler grandson claiming his knee from time to time, Mr Hunter talked in the farmhouse kitchen after another weekend's pies, plants and peppercorns had all been sold. A daily helper was already at work, turning out fairy cakes for the Monday browsers.

Things are going well, and Mr Hunter sounds gruff only on the subject of "MPs and retired MPs who aren't fit to run a business themselves, attacking farmers who are doing their best."

"We aim to do what the supermarkets do not do," he says, "and our good fortune is to be close to a very busy main road. It wouldn't work if we were a mile up a farm track."

His enthusiasm for the business has convinced the whole family. They all join in. Son Andrew is a partner, daughter-in-law Caroline runs the office, and daughter Elaine helps wherever she is needed.

It is Mrs Hunter's discerning taste that marks the merchandise. "It's just a case of what sells," she says. "I buy in what I like myself, and it seems to work. Everything is as home-made as we can make it—we choose British brands, and sell only English wines."

Her husband is the planner, deciding which gap to fill next, which outhouse to transform from near-collapse to burnished perfection. Their first shop was in an old workshop, which Mr Hunter converted, and then he extended the selling space into two loose-boxes, then an old tithe barn. Two years ago he opened a gallery selling pine furniture, with old and new dressers, tables, chairs and mirrors, "bought in from Galway or Galloway or some other corner of these islands".

Even before he was wooing the customers to Buckinghamshire, Mr Hunter was never a keep-townies-out kind of countryman. "I ply them, because to me London and big towns are concrete jungles—I'd live in a but-and-ben up the side of a mountain first. You can't wonder that city people have to get out and see what's in the wider world, and their need can be a great opportunity for people in the countryside," he



All good things around us: Anne and William Hunter with their harvest of farm shop fare, from pies to carved pine

says. "It's up to us to create interest, and anyone about to diversify should do something they will enjoy, whether it is running a weekend disco or some other entertainment."

Mr Hunter's family had always been farmers, but the way they moved south from Scotland is a story in many a television series would find hard to better. The youngest of five sons, Mr Hunter moved south from Mauchline, in Ayrshire, when his widowed mother, Annie Mauchline, hired a railway train to take her boys and her entire farm ("eight Clydesdale horses, a hundred head of cattle") to Manor Farm, three miles up the road from Fleet Marston. Young Willie slept on a luggage rack on the journey, with Jock, the family collie (aged nine and a half, the same age

as me) on the one opposite. The Hunters rented additional farms over the years, spreading themselves, but essentially they always farmed as a family. Mr Hunter met his wife-to-be, then a nurse, when a sack of corn fell off a lorry and broke his ankle.

Her father was about to sell Fleet Marston farm so young Hunter and his bride decided to buy it. Mrs Hunter had been born in what is now the guest room.

Mr Hunter claims not to know the price of a fairy cake, home-baked pie or a pot of fresh herbs; he tends to drive a JCB and look like the hired help. What he enjoys is thinking ahead. Before the year is out he intends to provide a tearoom, and after that, perhaps, a small museum of old farming implements, rural an-

tiques for the city folk to see. But there are some things he is not allowed to offer them: "I would love to be able to sell good Scotch beef and Ayshire bacon if I could," he says.

Nevertheless, despite the silk scarves and upmarket greetings cards, he still sells eggs and potatoes. And on darkening Sunday afternoons, by a log fire, he and his wife find it hard to resist a slice or two of this English loaf (treatment of a Scottish bannock recipe):

Bannock fruit loaf

Soak overnight, 1lb mixed dried fruit and 4cup of soft dark brown sugar in one cup of cold tea. Next day, mix in 1 egg and 1 1/2 cup of self-raising flour. Add cherries or nuts, if you like. Bake in a 1lb lined loaf tin for an hour in a pre-heated oven, at 180C/350F. Slice and spread with butter.

Opening time for oysters

With an 'r' in the month coming up, it's good news for shellfish-lovers

The native oyster season started early this year. Without waiting for an "r" in the month the civic dignitaries of Colchester, Essex, planned to take to small boats yesterday for their official opening ceremony.

Out in mid-channel on such occasions, the town clerk, John Cobley, reads a proclamation, couched in splendidly archaic phraseology. The mayor, who this year is Councillor Mary Frank, ceremoniously dredges the first oyster and the season is toasted with gin and gingerbread. Then the whole company of about 60 councillors and council officers puts ashore on Peewit Island, a salting off Mersea, to take a meal in an old packing shed.

The first course is 300 native oysters, supplied, as their lease from the council demands, by the Colchester Oyster Fishery Company. "There is always an alternative option," Graham White, the deputy town clerk, admits, "because some people cannot face oysters."

The burghers of Colchester paid £26 a head for the Peewit Island picnic. Those who wish to attend the famous, and more formal, Colchester Oyster Feast, held at the end of October in the town's Moot Hall, will stump up £31 each. For that the Colchester Oyster Fishery Company provides 1,700 or so flat, round, smooth-shelled natives.

Colchester's dignitaries are sensitive to any suggestions that their oyster planters might be subsidised from council coffers because, in the days when oysters were plentiful, the oyster feast used to be a popular free-for-all.

Expense puts some people off oysters. For others it is a squeamish objection to consuming anything which is still alive. And for others again it is some bout of execrable illness associated with oyster consumption in the past.

While some people are

allergic to oysters, others react to pathogens in the animals, possibly derived from the algae or plankton on which they have been feeding.

The growers purify their harvest by laying the shellfish for 36 hours in water constantly recirculated through ultra-violet light, which kills the micro-organisms.

Health checks are frequent and rigorous. Until now Britain has generally relied on the Klein-Eyre test, which looks for the bacteria known as E-coli, whose presence can indicate faecal pollution. From the new year, to meet EC standards, a more complicated and protracted procedure—the Five Dilution Most Probable Number test (MPN)—will be introduced, requiring definitive counts of other micro-organisms, including salmonella.

Oyster lovers who relish the fuller, purer flavour of natives over the less expensive pleasure of the longer, rough-shelled and deeper Pacific oysters, which are available all year round, will not be

deterred by such technological paraphernalia, anymore than they have been by expense. For them the good news is that natives are expected to be the same price this year as last and that the harvest appears, by modern standards, to be good at the Naze, in Scotland, and on the south coast, as well as in Colchester's beds.

Con Guerin, the manager of the Atlantic Shellfish Company in Cork, which provides many of the "natives" eaten in British hotels and restaurants, advises: "Never drink whisky, brandy or other strong, coloured spirits after eating oysters. They react together, and the stomach rejects both. The traditional drinks to go with oysters are stout or white wine, and with these you should not go wrong."

ROBIN YOUNG



Party guests put to the test

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

SARAH STANDING

I have just come back to England with my husband, Johnny, after living in Los Angeles for seven years. There, nobody cooks at home. "Would you like to come to dinner on Thursday at eight?" "Oh, that will be wonderful!"... then you find you are going to another restaurant.

In fact, all this going out to restaurants made me feel special, because I did cook. Everybody wanted to come to our house because they got real food. I became so crazed with everything low-fat and low-cholesterol that I resorted to cooking incredibly fattening shepherd's pies and bread-and-butter puddings, which nobody had eaten for 20 years because they were all so worried about their hearts. But once they discovered it wasn't going to kill them there was no stopping them.

I'm the sort of person who has to have a party for any form of celebration, whether it's a birthday, Valentine's day, Easter, Halloween, you name it. One Christmas in LA we did a wonderful treasure hunt, which took weeks of planning. We had 26 people and divided them into teams of two—with one who knew the area, and one who didn't basically it was one English and one American person together.

I started by giving everybody a huge lunch and, of course, they all had a lot to drink. Then off they went. The first thing they had to bring back was a spoon, then a towel, and eventually a dressing-gown—and a member of staff from the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Three people managed it, so we had three members of staff of the Beverly Hills Hotel back for tea, where they stayed for an incredibly long time. There was the doorman, a woman from the coffee shop and a maid, all in their uniforms.

After all that effort, the prize was something ridiculous, like a drum of sweets. But it was



great fun. People got lost, they were gone for hours, they couldn't find their way back. Others were too worried to get a towel—it was a question of "borrowing" them; of going up to the third floor and pretending you had a hotel room and that you had lost your keys. It certainly tested people's powers of persuasion.

The children love parties. They must take after me. They've started giving Johnny a birthday party. They do all the buying; the paper plates and party hats, and they do the cooking and inviting—all their friends. They decorate the cake themselves. It gets covered with rocks, flowers, drawings, plastic animals, huge candles, tiny candles and sweets. It's like Trooping the Colour on top of the cake. In fact it's almost inedible because they've pushed so many things into the icing.

The children get very serious about it all: they wrap up Pass the Parcel, which they always win; it's terribly funny. Johnny

never wants any other kind of birthday party, ever.

Now we're back in London we do a fair amount of entertaining. We eat in the kitchen, no dining-rooms for us: it's just straight from the stove. If we have masses of people, everyone just wanders around, and eats when they want to.

We have a real mixture of people; anybody and everybody. It's very casual. If somebody happens to call up at the right time I'll probably ask them round for dinner. Usually it's a pretty eclectic group. I don't worry whether they get on or not. I find if they're eating and drinking and are comfortable, they always do.

Johnny's a fabulous sort of butler; my assistant, my layer of the table. He is great at handling round food and talking to people. But he can't cook anything, except eggs. I'm very organised, and speedy. I can get the children into bed by seven o'clock and come back into a deserted kitchen—but in three-quarters of an hour dinner will be made and I'll be upstairs

getting changed. Johnny calls me Whizz.

What I'm hopeless at is cooking for two. I'm much better at getting dinner for lots of people. If Johnny came back from the theatre and said he'd asked ten people round for dinner it wouldn't panic me. He doesn't do that, though four for dinner has been known to become ten.

I have absolutely no sense of proportions. I cook for an army. I like to make huge things that people can delve into—fish pies, chicken pies or legs of lamb with masses of vegetables underneath that cook at the same time.

Afterwards, we'll sit talking. In America they're all gone by 11.30pm; they're terrified of staying up late. But in England we're all still laughing and larking around at 3am.

Sarah Standing's chocolate bread and butter pudding
1 small loaf chocolate bread (from Sainsbury's or Harrods)
6 pieces of white sliced bread, with the crust on
1pt milk
3 eggs
a little sugar

Butter a dish that is about 10in round and 3in high. Slice chocolate bread, and butter lightly on each side. Butter both sides of the white bread, and cut into quarters. Then alternate white and coloured bread into two layers. Mix a pint of milk with three eggs and pour on top. Sprinkle on a little sugar to your taste and put in an oven at 200C/400F for about half an hour, until it's crispy and brown. It should rise quite considerably. Serve with vanilla ice-cream or cream.

Interview by Paddy Bert
Sarah Standing is the daughter of Bryan Forbes and Nanette Newman, and is married to the actor John Standing (Sir John Leavelle). They have three children—India, aged eight, Archie, seven, and Tilly, two.

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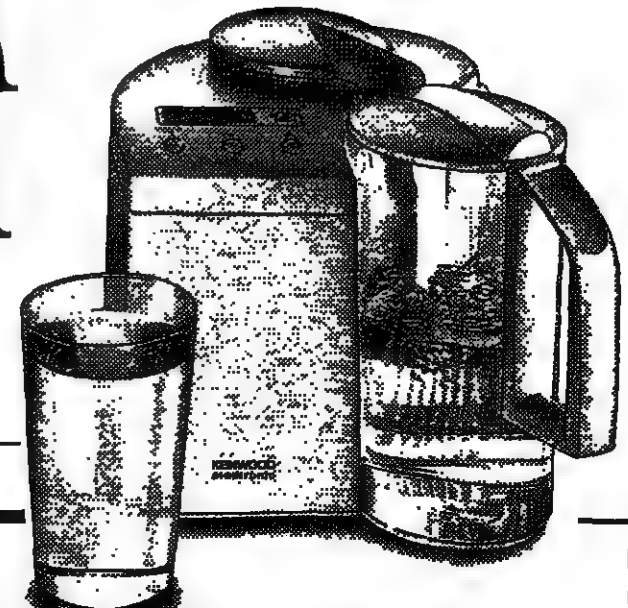
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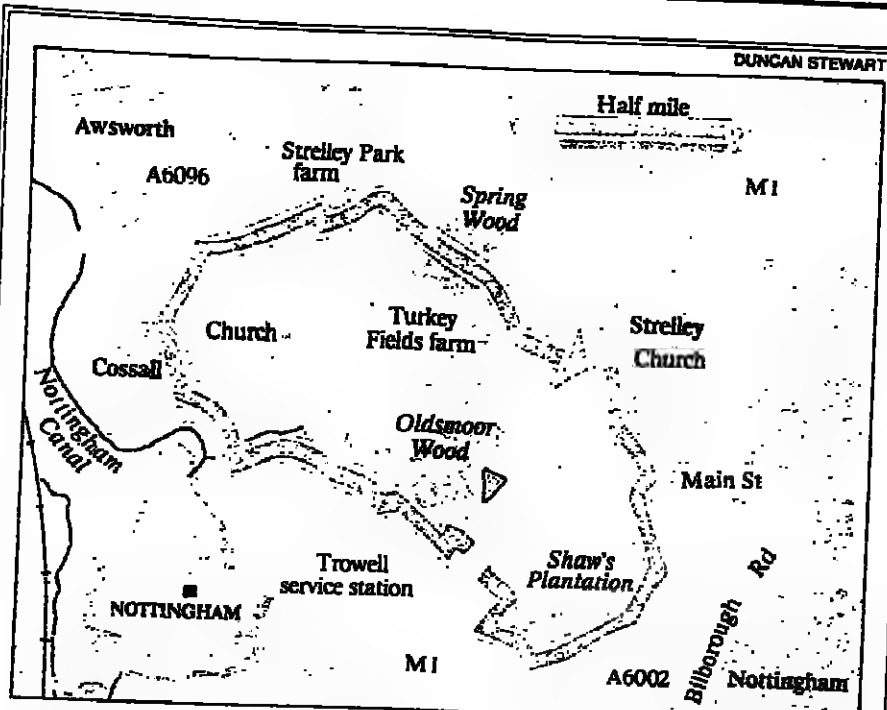
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WHERE TO WALK

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE has an abundance of walks — about 2,000 miles of footpaths and bridleways — through pleasant, if largely unspectacular, countryside. The list is headed by the 88-mile Robin Hood's Way, which begins at Nottingham castle and, after meandering through and around Sherwood forest, ends at the church in the village of Edwinstowe.

Within the forest are half a dozen circular walks of between five and ten miles. They and Robin Hood's Way are described and illustrated in two excellent booklets (available for £3.25 each from the County Council, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BJ).

Given such a choice, it might seem perverse to choose a walk which twice crosses the M1 motorway. The reasons in my case were its proximity to the city, its associations with D.H. Lawrence, and a curiosity to see how far the motorway impinged on the rural peace.

From the start of the five-mile walk, near the lovely sandstone All Saints church in Strelley, the noise is a dull, continuous roar, rather as though one were standing next door to a large waterfall or mill race. Strelley, named after the Norman landowner William de Stradleigh, is no more than a straggle of houses and is curiously difficult to find.

From a sharp bend in the road (OS Landranger map reference 508 418) follow the bridgehead for a short distance, then take the footpath to the right which leads southwest past the bottom of a wood, by which time the noise is a mere distant hum; the stile here is a mere distant hum, the stile here is a mere distant hum, the stile here is a mere distant hum.

The first coal in Nottinghamshire was mined near Cossall in 1316, and nearly eight centuries later there are posters



Writer's past: D.H. Lawrence country

everywhere denouncing new opencast mining proposals. Parts of St Catherine's church date from the 13th century, and next door is a row of 17th-century almshouses. Nearby Church Cottage was the home of Louise Burrows, Lawrence's fiancée, which features as Honeymoon Cottage in his novel *The Rainbow*.

Take the path from Church Lane, and turn right down the hill to a footbridge. Follow the grassed path up a field, through a gateway to the brow of a hill with good views across the countryside (ref: 485 428). Continue with the hedge on your right until you reach a cart road which leads past Strelley Park farm. Take another right turn to Spring Wood (ref: 497 428), formerly ancient forest but completely replanted 30 years ago.

Continue on past Turkey Fields farm until you reach a waymarked bridleway. Turn left towards the roar of the motorway, which this time is crossed by a bridge, and back into Strelley.

WHERE TO EAT

● The atmosphere at Soupy's, 3 Carlton Street (0602 473041), is described by the owner, Vernon Mascarhanas, as "eccentric, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays". In midweek it seemed normal enough, although the all-white décor is an unusual touch. Specialities on the Californian-Italian menu include excellent fish soup and sticky toffee pudding. About £20-£25 a head, including wine.

● Bea Bowers, 128 Derby Road (0602 413388), looks from the outside like a Victorian pub, which it presumably once was. The ground-floor bistro, where you can take an aperitif in a comfortable armchair before moving to your table, offers "a recession-busting price breakthrough: 1985 prices in 1992", and £10 for a starter, main course and coffee — poached salmon mayonnaise followed by steak and kidney pie, for example — is undeniably good value. Downstairs à la carte main dishes are £10-£12. Good, inexpensive wine list.

● In warm weather Fothergill's, 5 Castle Road (0602 500074), with its large open terrace opposite the entrance to the castle, is a popular meeting place, particularly at lunchtime. Pasta or fish (prawns, calamari, etc) about £5, chicken, pork or steak £8-£10. Fully licensed; friendly, efficient service.

● Nottingham has traditionally been well supplied with ethnic restaurants. Among the best is Ocean City, 100-104 Derby Road (0602 475095), where the Cantonese specialities include whelks, duck webs, beef with bitter gourd and crabmeat braised in milk. Three courses £25-£35, inexpensive house wines.

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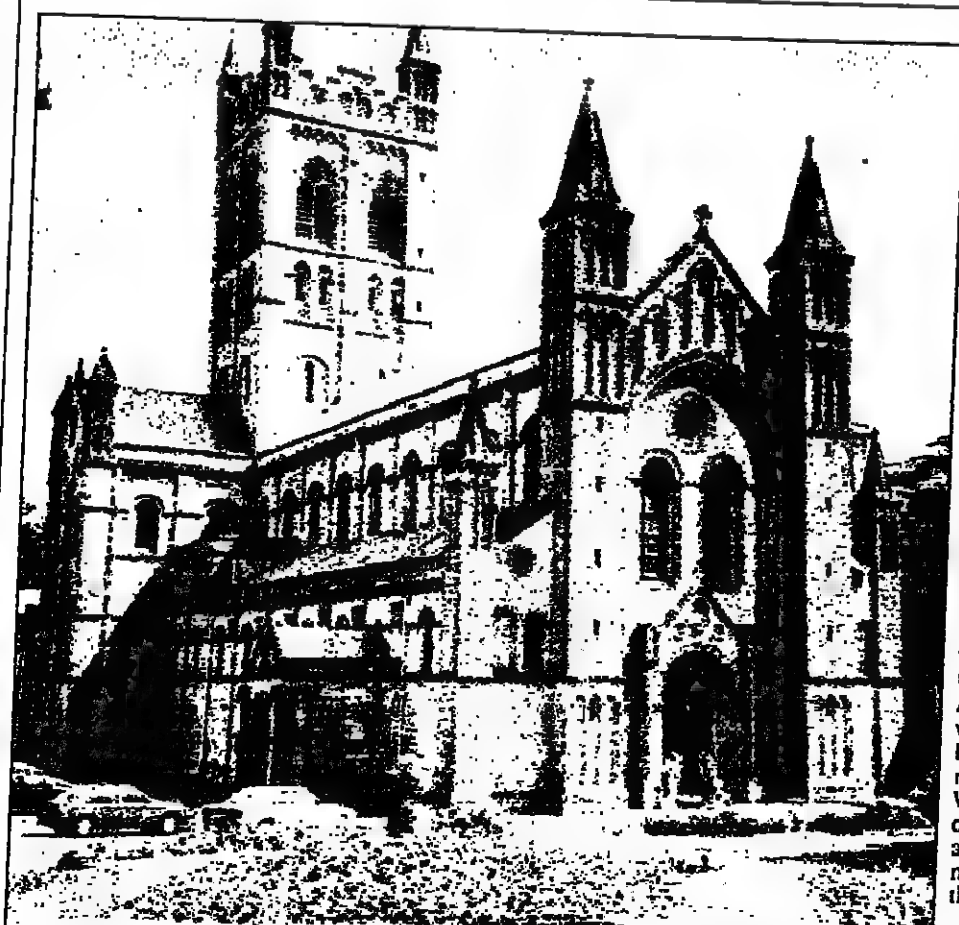
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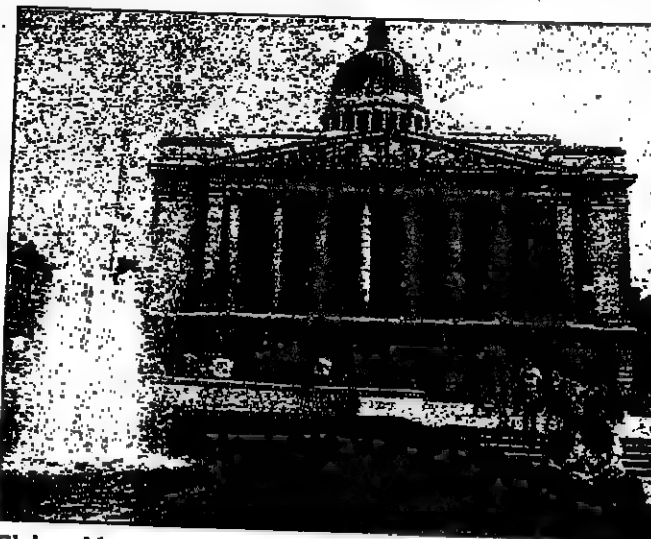
Buckfast Abbey today: Henry VIII destroyed the original church, founded in 1018



BEST OF BRITAIN

NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham is best known for Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest, but beyond the legend John Young finds a city with many splendid things



Civic pride: part of the legacy of good buildings in the city



Street cred: critical appraisal for an artist in the city centre

ment of the wooden Saxon fort by a stone castle, and a wall was built to divide the new "French borough" from the earlier Saxon settlement in order, it was said, to prevent quarrelling. He seemed to have acted with a certain foresight, since the events of subsequent centuries proved the citizens of Nottingham to be a rowdy and rumbustious lot.

The would-be King John used the castle as his headquarters during his attempts to usurp his brother, Richard the Crusader, and it was from its walls, after he succeeded to the throne, that 28 boy hostages, sons of the

rebellious Welsh princes, were brutally hanged. In medieval times the city became a regular base for the monarchy; parliaments were held in Nottingham in the 14th century, and in 1485 another Richard set out from the castle to lose first his horse and then his life at the battle of Bosworth.

From then on the castle's history declined in the nation's history. Despite Charles I's theatrical gesture at the start of the Civil War, it became a Roundhead garrison, which best of a succession of Royalist assaults. After the war its destruction was ordered, not

by Cromwell but by the garrison commander, Colonel John Hutchinson, who feared that the Lord Protector had become "poisoned by ambition", and that he might use it to further his personal ends.

The ruins were subsequently replaced by an imposing Palladian mansion, built in 1679 as the seat of the Cavendish family, Dukes of Newcastle. In 1831 the local citizenry reasserted its rebellious nature by burning it down in protest at the quashing of the Reform Bill. A furious duke refused to rebuild it, preferring to leave it as "a memento of, and a standing disgrace to, the inhabitants of Nottingham".

An evocative painting by Charles McArthur, which hangs in the present building, depicts the decayed shell, overgrown by foliage. Stirred into action, the authorities spent the next four years restoring it as a museum, which houses a notable collection of English domestic silver, a number of paintings by local artists, and the regional museum of the Sherwood Foresters. The surviving medieval gatehouse displays a notice stating when the sheriff will next be receiving visitors.

Recent excavations have revealed some remnants of the original castle, including the Black Tower, buried under the Castle Green, and there are conducted tours of caves in the sandstone rock on which the castle stands.

While the castle decayed, the city prospered during the 17th and 18th centuries, thanks to the expansion of local industries and the development of the Nottinghamshire coalfield. Timber buildings were replaced by town houses and streets built in brick and stone. In 1726 Daniel Defoe described it as "one of the most pleasant and beautiful towns in England".

The most famous of its new industries was lacemaking, a development which transformed men's and women's fashions and the decoration of their homes. What had been a cottage industry in Elizabethan times was progressively expanded by the development of increasingly complex machines. During the early years of the 19th century about 15,000 men, women and children were employed in lacemaking, performing monotonous tasks for appallingly long hours in dispiriting conditions.

Lace is still produced in Nottingham, albeit on a greatly reduced scale and in a far more congenial environment. Some of the traditional machinery is on working display in the Lace Hall, a former Unitarian chapel, together with an audio-visual exhibition recounting the history of the industry. There are also shops selling finished products, and taking orders for wedding dresses or whatever.

But in many ways the most notable legacy of the lacemakers is the Lace Market, one of the most splendid collections of 18th and 19th-century factories and warehouses to be found in Britain. Most of them have been cleaned and restored, and some have found new tenants, but the

area badly needs an infusion of new life at street level. As it is, a stroll through the strangely peaceful streets and alleyways is a rewarding way to spend an hour or so.

Nearby is another little publicised delight. Although it was the home of several early religious settlements, Nottingham lacks an ancient cathedral, but the beautiful St Mary's church is certainly the next best thing. The great perpendicular nave was completed in 1474, lit at the time by huge windows which were later filled with stained glass.

In 1844 a motion to demolish

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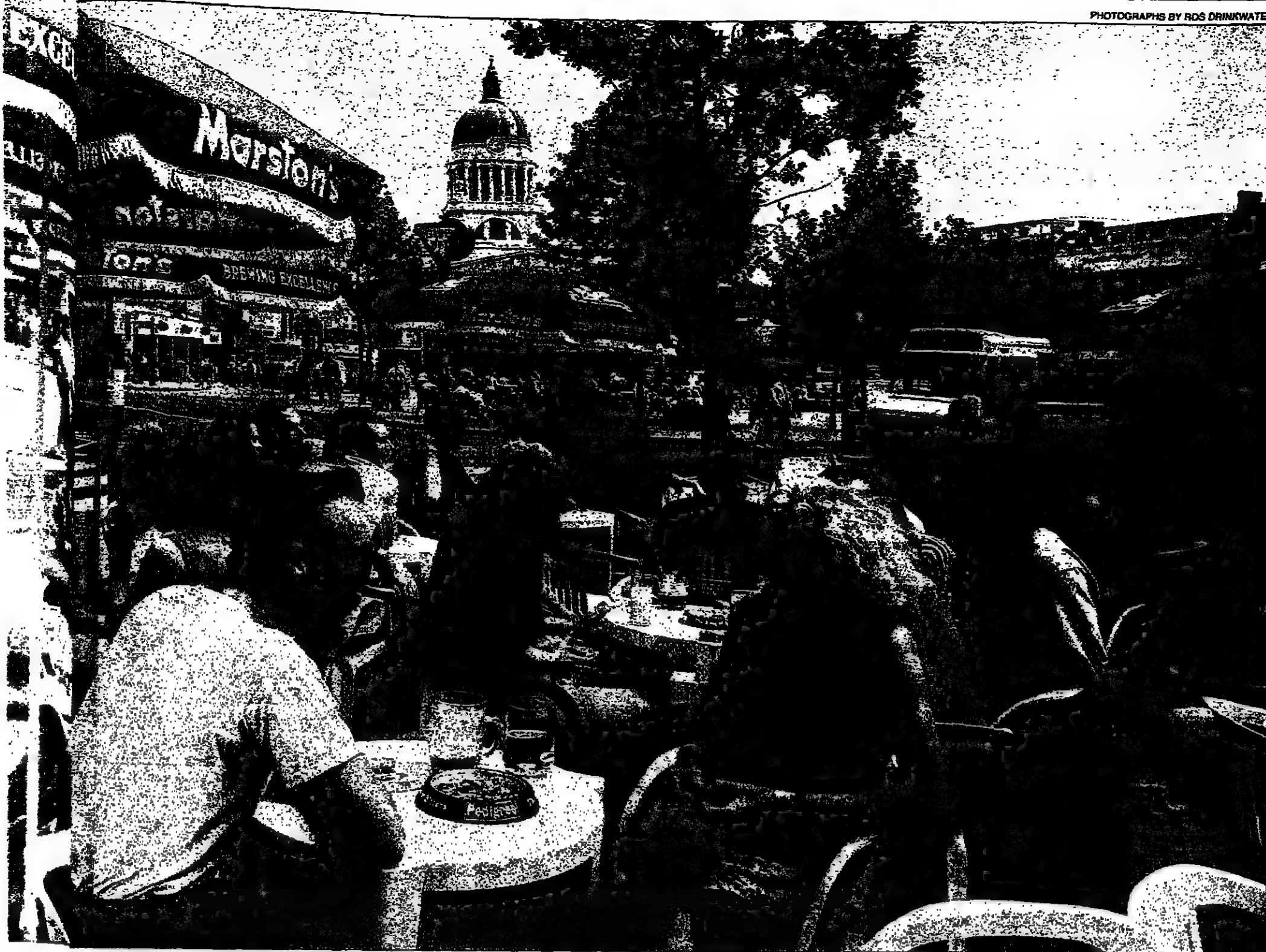
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GETTING AWAY



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROS DRINKWATER



Spoilt for choice: the Forte Crest, one of the best

★ WHERE TO STAY ★

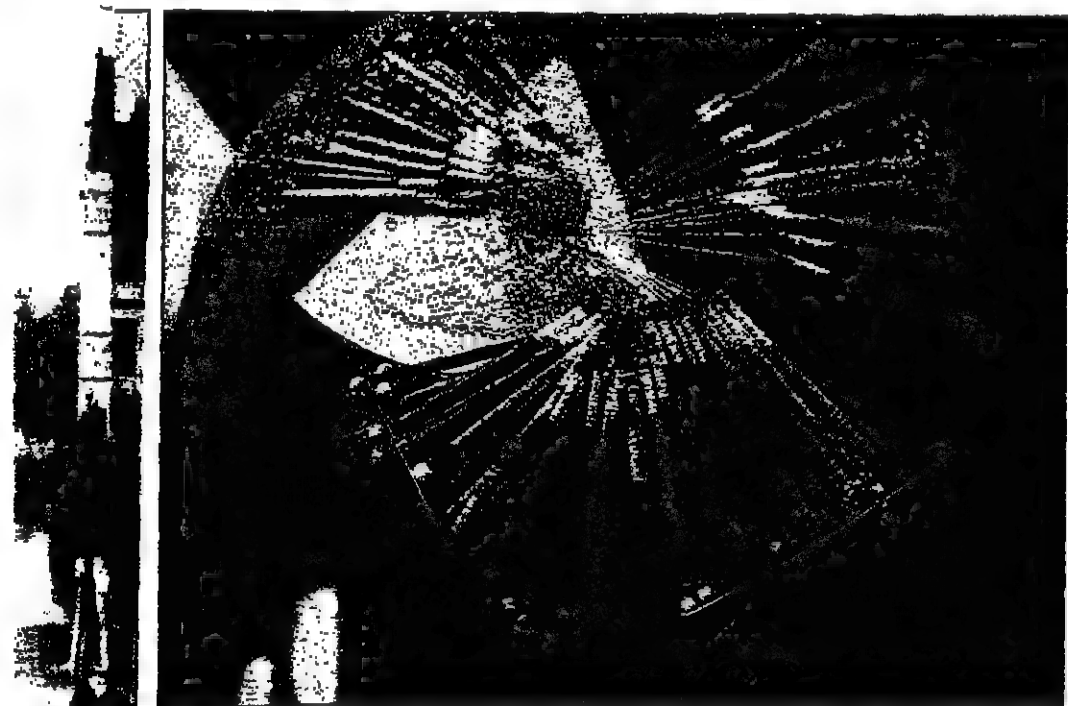
● For a city of its size, Nottingham is unusually well supplied with hotels and guest houses at all levels. Near the top of the list is the Forte Crest (0602 470131) which, whatever one's views of hotels owned by large chains, is distinctly a cut above the average of its kind. A female colleague was particularly impressed by the large Lady Crest rooms which, for once, had been designed and furnished to meet a woman's needs.

● Recession and the need to achieve higher occupancy rates have stimulated a range of weekend bargains. The Forte Crest charges £75 a night, room only, midweek, but offers dinner, bed and breakfast for £41 a head at weekends. Single rooms at the Royal Mount House (0602 414444), next door to the Theatre Royal, are reduced from £67 a night midweek to £28.50 on Fridays and Saturdays.

● Even better value is provided by the so-called Robin Hood rate, which embraces most of the city's main hotels. Those in the top group, which includes the above as well as the Rutland Gate hotel, an impressive warehouse conversion (0602 411114), and the Skalks Victoria (0602 419561), offer weekend bed and breakfast for £25 a night single and £49 double. The George (0602 475641), on the edge of the Lace Market, is £22.50 single, £44 double.

● Among the smaller hotels, the Regency House (0602 474520) is convenient and comfortable but, because of the weekend special offers by its larger competitors, the price differential is less marked than before. Singles from £39.50 midweek, £29.50 weekends, doubles £49.50.

relax in the peace that reigns today in Nottingham city centre, a far cry from the industrial successes — and excesses — of the early 19th century that made it a hotbed of civil unrest



Up to Jerusalem in Brewhouse Yard, and lacemaking tools on display in the Lace Hall

burgh and rebuild it was not only narrowly, instead, mber of Victorian embel- s were commissioned, dig the roof of the nave, s, bishop's throne and upit, all designed by Sir an Scott. Another notable century feature is the rery 3rd-century and Garner. ingham's industrial suc- ver, also brought with e of the worst excesses of fusion and squalor that is has ever witnessed. Be- 750 and 1830 the pop- quintupled, turning e's pleasant and beautiful into a vast, wretched slum.

Farmworkers poured into the city in search of employment, fields and orchards were destroyed to make way for back-to-back houses, while the basic elements of drainage and street maintenance were ignored.

Much of the blame was attributed to an unofficial alliance between landowners and the city corporation, who refused to allow the city to expand beyond its historic boundaries. Trapped in inhuman conditions, thousands died from disease, starvation and suicide and were buried in mass graves.

It is hardly surprising that Nottingham became a hotbed

of civil unrest. It was the scene of some of the earliest action by the Luddites, followed by innumerable strikes, and the Reform Bill riots which led to the burning of the castle.

The city's turbulent history is well recorded both in the Castle Museum and in the Museum of Daily Life, housed in a row of 17th-century townhouses below the castle walls. The area, known as Brewhouse Yard, originally contained a brewery and several taverns, one of which, The Trip to Jerusalem, survives. Dating from 1189, it claims to be the oldest inn in England, and a pint or two in

one or other of its honeycomb of bars is recommended.

A complete contrast to the intensity of urban life is provided a few miles away at Newstead Abbey, the family home of Lord Byron. Set beside a lake in an exquisite 300-acre park, it is one of the few medieval religious buildings to have been successfully converted into a private residence.

In Byron's time it was neglected and largely uninhabited, and in any case the poet's restless wanderings took him abroad for much of his life. In 1817 financial difficulties compelled him to sell the estate to his friend, Colonel Thomas Wildman, who, with the help of a fortune inherited from the Jamaican plantations, set about restoring it. Since 1931 it has been owned by the City of Nottingham and is admirably preserved and presented.

Inevitably, Robin Hood has become Nottingham's biggest selling point, and visitors are almost expected to make the pilgrimage a few miles north to Sherwood Forest. Only two substantial fragments remain of the ancient forest, which in medieval times occupied about 100,000 acres; much of the area has been converted to farmland or commercially planted with conifers.

Sherwood has also suffered from the inroads of mining, which have caused subsidence, created pollution, damaged trees and interfered with underground watercourses. No matter. There is a well-managed 450-acre country park, much of it ancient oakland, including the famous giant Major Oak, reckoned to be at least 600 years

old. The visitor centre tends to the theme-park approach, with plenty of jousting, jesting and other "olde English" frivolities: the children love it.

For those without the time or inclination to make the journey to the real Sherwood, there is always the Tales of Robin Hood, an award-winning interpretive "experience". Visitors are transported on electric cars "back through time", with sights,

smells and sounds recreating the authentic atmosphere.

In the heart of historically lawless Nottingham, the great outlaw lives on.

● The Royal Armouries Civil War Exhibition, supported by The Times, will be at the Castle Museum, Nottingham, until Sept 20. The exhibition can then be seen at the City Art Gallery and Museum, Worcester, Sept 26-Jan 3 1993, and at the Corbion Museum, Cirencester, Jan 9-March 28 1993.

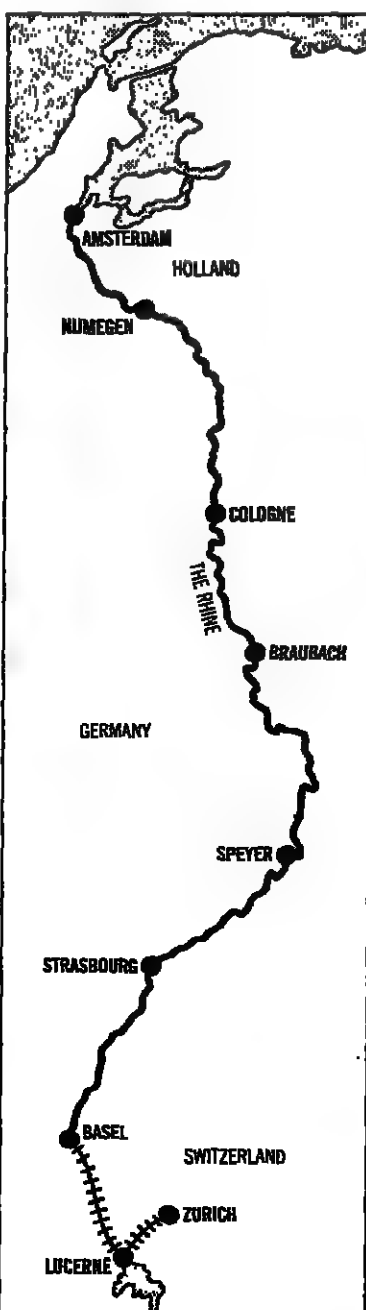
Here is an ideal opportunity to take advantage of a very special low price and enjoy a 500 mile journey aboard one of the wonderfully comfortable KD river vessels from Holland to Switzerland. Our river journey begins in the lowlands of Holland and follows the course of the Rhine, past the unique and romantic German scenery dotted with picturesque villages, where cliff-top castles and fortresses dominate the tranquil riverside scenes of a wine growing countryside.

If fairytale castles, churches of rare beauty and captivating scenery are not enough, then consider the wealth of attractions in the fine art galleries and museums together with the lovingly restored buildings. Surely no country has done more to protect its architectural heritage than Germany. The inner man is also well looked after with excellent food and service for which KD Line are justly renowned.

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The journey will be aboard the MS Austria or MS Italia. Both vessels carry approximately 160 passengers in outside air-conditioned cabins with shower and toilet. Facilities include dining room, bar, observation lounge, reading room, verandah, sundeck, sauna, solarium and gift shop.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London (Gatwick) to Amsterdam and drive to the KD Vessel at Nijmegen. Embark and sail.

DAY 2 Cologne and Braubach. A morning in Cologne — see the largest cathedral in Germany and explore the city with its excellent museums and romantic churches. Sail along the Rhine in the afternoon to Braubach. After dinner on board enjoy a stroll through the town with its half-timbered houses, attractive inns and enjoy its medieval character.

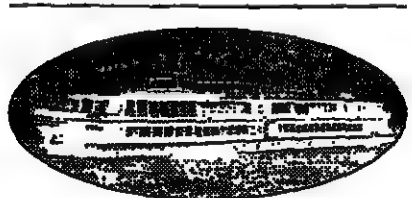
DAY 3 Sailing along the Rhine. A day to relax on the river enjoying its stunning scenery. Alternatively join an excursion in the afternoon to Heidelberg including dinner in this most attractive Rhineland town. Arrive Speyer in the evening.

DAY 4 Strasbourg. A morning on the river followed by an afternoon in the enchanting city of Strasbourg. See the minister and the old quarter, Quai de la Petite France and the 'covered bridges'.

DAY 5 Basel. A morning on the river. After lunch disembark at Basel and continue by train to Lucerne for a 3 night stay at the Montana Hotel.

DAYS 6 & 7 Lucerne. Relax, walk and explore this lovely lakeside town. A cruise on the lake is included.

DAY 8 Zurich-London. Travel by train to Zurich and connect with scheduled flights to London Gatwick.



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I would think not all are fans for that matter. They vast to stand back a little what they are doing. lary people say how peace- rastic life must be," he ut it's not something convices me terribly e for most of us working e is quite hectic. There mes when the monastery e a kicked ant heap. I wat they probably mean e peace and quiet which s with the absence of y and stress, but the peace eing people with a sense pose, a commitment and e to their lives."

come on a retreat to e you write to the abbot ksto be accepted. Men are d as house guests in the story, with free accommo- and meals with the s. It is left to individuals to eonation for their keep. dval they are met by the master, who takes them to room and, if it is a first shows them round.

of next year when a new tial block will be com- l, women have to stay in y guest houses and eat in Grange. But all are wel-



A little proud: Brother Pascal, one of the five builder-monks

come at the abbey services, and days are spent reading, meditating, praying, or wandering through the monastery's riverside woods and meadows.

Brother Pascal, who came to Buckfast in 1927, when he was 16, spent 11 years at work on the abbey, 30 looking after the bees and 20 in the kitchen. Now his working hours are taken up with housework

and making 20 gallons of beer a week, and some cider, for the monks' lunch.

He and three of the other builder-monks acquired their building skills from the fifth, Brother Peter, the only trained mason among them, who made all the nave arches himself and died at 92. Father Richard did the filling in on the walls, Brother Hilariion mixed the

mortar and dressed the stone, and Brother Ignatius, who fell off the scaffolding when he was in his forties, but recovered to live until he was 91, was the photographer and electrician.

Warning to his memories of 60 years ago, Brother Pascal relates how he once stood on top of the flagstaff 20ft above the 158ft high tower, how crowds would come to watch the monks at work, and the day the last stone was put in place during morning service and the ringers got together and rang the bells in a triumphal peal. "I never doubted it would be finished," he says. "But I think I was too young in those days to realise what it entailed."

Now Brother Pascal is the only one of the five dedicated builder-monks left to remember the consecration service. How does he feel, 60 years later? "I shouldn't be proud really," he says with a smile, "but perhaps I am, just a little."

ANGELA WIGGLESWORTH

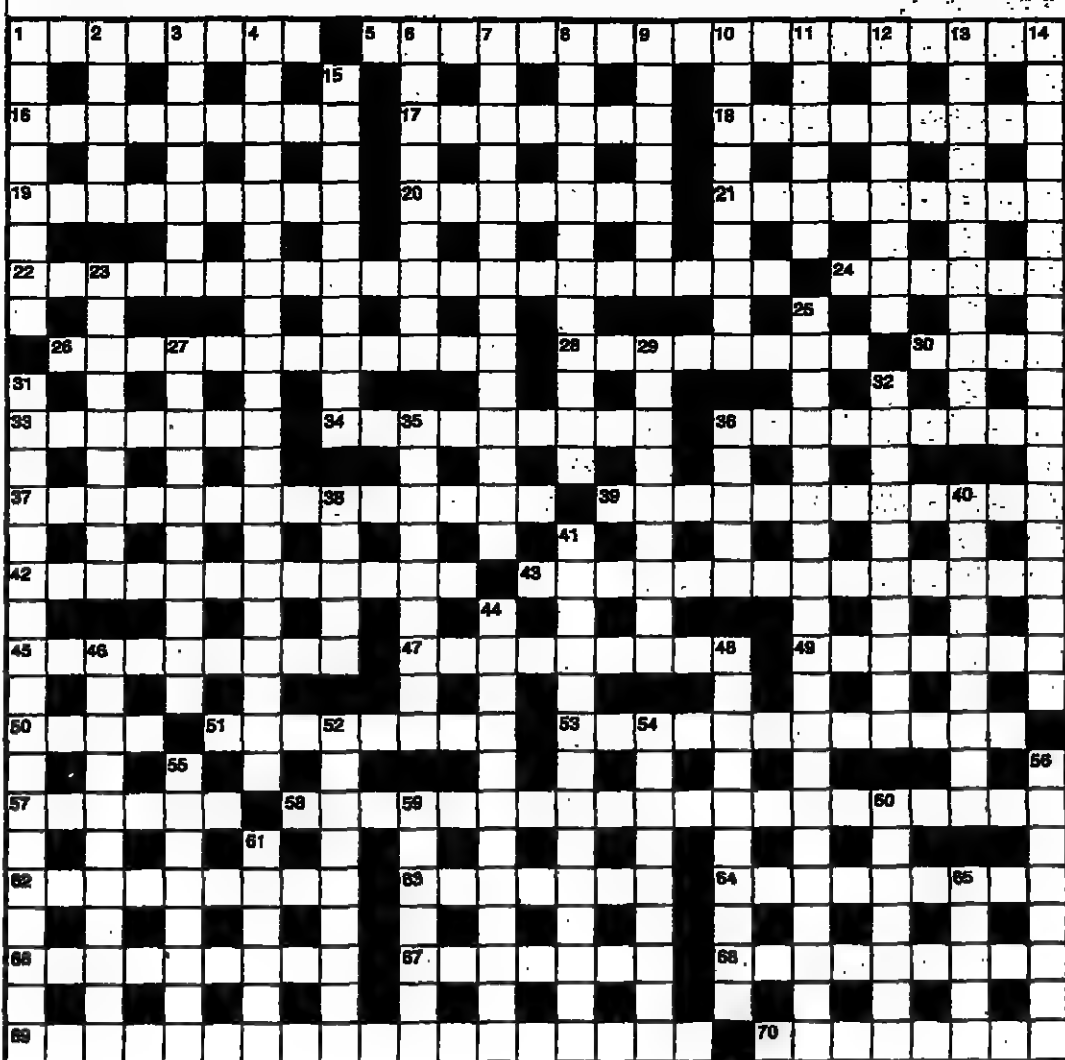
● Buckfast Abbey is open 5.45am-9.30pm every day and visitors are welcome to all services. Books on retreats include: The Good Retreat Guide, by Stafford Whiteaker (Rider, £9.90); Away From It All, by Geoffrey Gerard (Lutterworth Press, £6.95); Out of This World, by George Target (Bishopsgate Press, £7.95/£4.95pbk).

Tudo

Concise version

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, September 14. Entries should be sent to Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, September 19.

- 1 Rebel leader on island not a serious opponent (5,3)
- 2 It can be very dangerous charging money (5)
- 3 Cause no discord among the Titans (7)
- 4 Play not accepted by the Royal Court? (12,8)
- 5 Ambassador briefed twice concerning what's in this area (9)
- 7 Having assembled, we hear, remain inside for every type of treatment (7,7)
- 8 It's even said to appear plausible (6-6)
- 9 Exchange of letters marks the end of a new Indian city (7)
- 10 Place of entertainment's next West End hit (5-4)
- 11 Fruit tree producing endless fruit without one (6)
- 12 Move to richer parts, and impressive sort of address? (8)
- 13 It's useless to press a foreign voting system on elected board (11)
- 14 Two authors with novel sent real message of optimism (4,7,7)
- 5 Abandoned wreck's position near continent (2,3,5)
- 13 Underground worker is hard on youngster, say (4-5)
- 15 1960 case-book (4,11,5)
- 17 Intolerance as school's leader is replaced by new head (10)
- 19 Fascinated way in which daughter follows (9)
- 11 This poet, in short, misused litotes (6,7,5)
- 12 They guarantee island's position in worst possible case (10)
- 15 Striking with lots of gunfire and explosions (9)
- 16 Tiddly, we hear, following a port (5)
- 18 Letters written before I enter US university force (5)
- 0 To be introducing special term is going too far (9)
- 1 Step in with cover, and set out to provide this? (14)
- 4 Inferred it's helpful (12)
- 6 Start off geographical organization in island group (11)
- 8 Jaw on male amphibian (10)
- 2 After partitioning of Ireland, study peace proposal (9)
- 4 Talked glibly about point that's not plain (9)
- 5 A French female upset in test of ownership rights (8)
- 6 Tough kid, for example, comes to unhappiness end (8)
- 9 Amusing fellow-doctor (7)
- 0 Icy ladies I'd found oddly picturesque (7)
- 1 Punished us without a break (6)
- 5 Indian all-rounder given shrewd support (5)



Name _____
Address _____

SOLUTION TO YESTERDAY'S CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2879

ACROSS: 1 Essex Man 7 Slime 8 Edgbaston 9 IBM 10 Then 11 Scared 13
Detach 14 Puppet 19 Prompt 20 Mete 21 War 23 Egomaniac 24 Power 25 Gendarmerie

DOWN: 1 Erected 2 Segment 3 Xmas 4 Attack 5 Livid 6 Terms 7 Snarl-up
12 Scooter 15 Premier 16 Treacle 17 Osmose 18 Swipe 19 Prowl 22 Band

ACROSS	DOWN
1 European mountaineer (8)	1 German motorway (8)
5 Cezanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh (4,14)	2 Fathoming weight (5)
16 Confidently give into care (5,4)	3 Bumpy (3,4)
17 Followed (7)	4 No gain, no loss (6,3,11)
18 1,000 year cycles (9)	6 Alive (livestock) (2,3,4)
19 Child's chide sweet (6,3)	7 Penal colony exile (14)
20 Trap (7)	8 Score 100 (4,1,7)
21 Experiment phials (4,5)	9 Beef, lamb, venison (3,4)
22 Working extra hours regularly (10,2,8)	10 Occasionally (9)
24 Kipling wolf family boy (6)	11 Maltreat (3,3)
26 Squandered gains (6,6)	12 Require implement (4,4)
28 Double (5,3)	13 Ballast sacks (11)
30 Wicked (4)	14 Star Trek craft (8,10)
33 Endure (7)	15 Cup-switching trick (10)
34 Bestow family insignia (5,4)	23 Trademark (5,4)
36 2,240 pounds (3,6)	25 Jordan-crossing spiritual (5,3,5,7)
37 Fixed practice (8,6)	27 Ripped receipt (4,6)
39 Tapering channel (6,6)	29 Underestimated (9)
42 All-comers victor (4,8)	31 Luxur tomb malediction (5,2,11)
43 Stout-hearted fighter (7,7)	32 Be correct (3,2,5)
45 Eg. Othello part (5,4)	35 Sneaked away (9)
47 In best clothes (7,2)	36 Belief principle (5)
49 Provocative writhings (7)	38 Thicket (5)
50 Abound (4)	40 Film test (5,4)
51 Marooned (8)	41 British royal dynasty (5,2,7)
53 Traditional belief (3,5,4)	46 Announce theme (4,3,5)
57 Count (6)	46 Temperature measure (11)
58 Third Mary at Crucifixion (4,3,4,2,7)	48 Gaol room (6,4)
62 Hindering (9)	52 Insensitivity to pain (9)
63 Aides and retainers (7)	54 Challenged umpire (6,3)
64 Celebration drink (9)	55 Investigation (8)
66 Ingredients (9)	56 Agreed (8)
67 Enforcer (7)	59 Richard III follower (7)
68 Lashed out indiscriminately (4,5)	60 Board aircraft (7)
69 Gulf Stream (5,8,5)	61 Main turn (3,3)
70 Flowered (8)	65 Melancholy (5)

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Believed by many to be the first Queen's Avenue house in the Cambridge area, The Old Rectory at Pen Discombe has in fact a complicated history spanning from the 16th to 19th centuries.

The middle section of red brick over a timber frame houses the main living areas and is believed to date from the early 1700s, when Dr John Davies, master of Queen's College and rector from 1711-32, was in residence. The north-cross wing of white brick is probably 17th-century and has been converted into a self-contained flat and groom's studio. The larger south wing with transverse gables provides an extra two bedrooms, and is believed to be partly 16th century.

Subsequent occupants of the Listed Grade II house have included a former keeper of ceramics at Fitzwilliam College, who came by the



Buyer's France

LOT ET GARONNE

South of the Dordogne, the Lot et Garonne is a rich agricultural area, famous for its fruit and vegetables. The rolling countryside is a mixture of farm and woodland, dotted with interesting old châteaux, pretty churches and *bastide* (fortified) towns.

Easily reached by plane from Bordeaux or Toulouse (two hours' drive), or by TGV from Paris (less than four hours), property prices are cheaper than the Dordogne, and there is a good supply of unconverted stone farm-buildings and village houses.



Spare rooms: it is not hard to get lost in the The Old Rectory, whose guide price is £650,000

house in a "swamp" with the resident parson the day war broke out in 1939. The present owners have lived there for 21 years, and made their own tasteful improvements in 1972.

The Old Rectory is well suited for entertaining, and with so many sections to explore, it's not surprising that some guests have been lost (temporarily) in the warren of rooms and staircases which always seem to lead back to the central reception hall, with its brick no-gazing fireplace and original cross beams.

Secret cupboards abound, for example, in one of the window shutters in the splendid dining-room which has fielded panelling dating back to 1703. An inner lobby leads off the room to the back staircase, which is ideal for retiring discreetly to the powder room between courses, returning unnoticed to the drawing-room at the end of the lobby in time for coffee.

The drawing-room has French silk-panelled walls and views of the River Cam. You can also enjoy the vista from a number of the other rooms.

The Old Rectory stands on what is claimed to be the highest land in Cambridge, on the site of the prehistoric Fleam Dyke which was the fortified boundary of the Fens. With a guide price of £650,000, the seven-bedroomed house stands in about 1½ acres, with gardens that slope down to the river.

GILL ELLIOTT
 ● Further enquiries: Bidwells

Clean and fruity



Country life: this 150-year-old farmhouse costs £69,000

renovation, with two bedrooms but no garden, can be found for less than £10,000. About £25,000 buys a habitable house in need of modernisation. For £39,000 you can buy a restored four-bedroomed house, with central heating, a garage and a sub-

Large unconverted stone farmhouse, with sizeable acreages, start at £40,000. Fully renovated, with out-buildings and up to ten acres of fruit trees and farmland, these fetch from £80,000. A restored farmhouse, with beautiful views over own

Widhear, is for sale at £64,000, through French Property Shop, Wadhurst Road, Mark Cross, East Sussex (0892 852449). It has a large, attached open-fronted barn and 4½ acres of land.

Not far from the border with the Dordogne, near the old market town of Lauzun, this attractive stone farmhouse (left, set in 1½ acres of garden with vines, surrounded by rolling green countryside, is on offer at £69,000 (including agency fees). The 150-year-old stone house has been restored by its English owners and has central heating. The UK agent is Siflex, Phoenix House, 86 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (071-384 1200).

CHERYL TAYLOR

● Other UK agents with associates in the UK at Garonne: Barbers, 427-429 North End Road, Fulham, London SW6 (071-381 0112) and Western, Br...

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● BUSINESS 17-20
● WEEKEND MONEY 21-23

BUSINESS TIMES

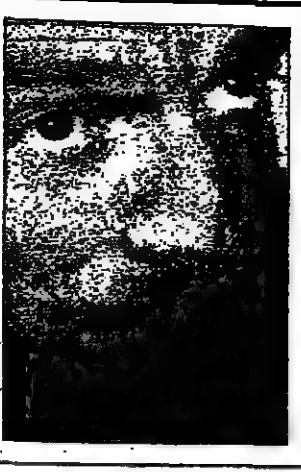
SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
26-32

Profile

When he was four, James Tuckey and his family lived under a scrap of canvas tied to a Land Rover on a Rhodesian tobacco plantation. Now 46, he is chief executive of MEPC, Britain's second-biggest property developer, in the middle of a property slump. His early life has fitted him well for the current difficulties, colleagues say. Page 19

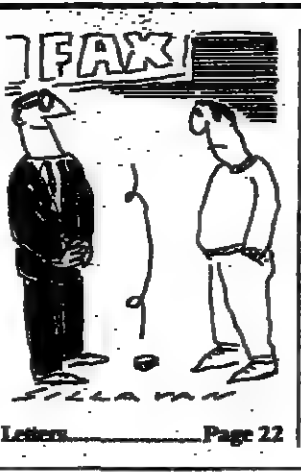


Clean break

Divorcing couples should split the total value of their joint pension rights and make a clean break, according to proposals made this week by the National Association of Pension Funds. Page 23

Rising sun

The Japanese stock market has risen 25 per cent in nine days as details have spilled out of the government's rescue for the financial system. Yesterday the cabinet approved the rescue. Page 18



Own home

Carol Drury is looking forward to moving out of her cramped caravan and into the four-bedroom home that she and her husband Simon have built from scratch. The Drurys are two of a growing number of people prepared to suffer the initial discomforts involved in building their own homes because of the subsequent benefits they will enjoy. Fellow self-builders, the Pynes, calculate that their £130,000 house would cost them about £200,000 to buy. Page 21



Complaining

Pension fund administrators are blamed for poor communication with fund members for a number of the complaints received by the pensions ombudsman in his first year in office. Page 23

Foundations

The National Self Build Homes Show is hoping to attract 40,000 visitors next month, against the 34,486 that attended last year. A self-build trade association warns against cowboys. Page 21

Bond boost

The conventional wisdom of the 1980s that the stock market was the best place to invest has been turned on its head in the 1990s. Returns from bonds are looking more attractive. Page 22

Lloyd's council wins victory in names' poll

By Jonathan Prynn, Insurance Correspondent

LLOYD'S of London yesterday celebrated a resounding victory in a poll of names on a motion of confidence in the insurance market's ruling council.

There was an 80 per cent majority for the key motion, expressing confidence in the current council subject to continuation of efforts to reform the market and raise funds to relieve the hardship of distressed names.

The vote was hailed as a breakthrough in the bitter two-year struggle with several thousand loss-making names, most of whom are threatening legal action. The ballot followed an extraordinary meeting of names last month that debated five motions, four of which were critical of the market and its management. Those four were opposed by the council, and all were defeated.

David Coleridge, the outgoing chairman of Lloyd's, announced the results of the poll yesterday afternoon on the floor of the underwriting room. His statement was greeted with applause from underwriters and brokers. Before he delivered it, the Lutine bell at the centre of the room was rung twice.

Mr Coleridge told *The Times* afterwards: "We have often had to turn the other cheek while the vociferous minority has made all the running. Now the silent majority has commented for the first time and what a resounding comment it was." Mr Coleridge said he was surprised by the size of the vote in favour of the confidence motion and delighted by the 72 per cent participation in the vote. About 23,000 of the 33,000 members eligible returned valid ballot papers.

However, senior Lloyd's figures were left wondering how to interpret the closer votes on the four other motions proposed by the EGM Initiative, the body representing dissident names that questioned last month's meeting. Mr Coleridge said he was not surprised by the substantial minority votes in favour of the dissidents' motions as they were all "good motherhood requests".

The highest vote in favour of any of the four dissidents' motions was for one calling on current and future council members to disclose, publicly and fully, all their interests in businesses related to Lloyd's. The motion was rejected by 57 per cent to 43 per cent. Lloyd's has already decided that a register of council members' interests will be introduced next year. Another motion, calling for the reversal of a £500 million levy imposed on the membership, was rejected by 64 per cent of those voting.

Richard Astor, legal adviser to the EGM Initiative, said he was "pretty encouraged by the results" and warned Lloyd's that a second EGM and new motions for ballot could follow if the council refused to co-operate with groups representing dissident names. "Our first move will be to hold out the hand of constructive discussion to Lloyd's and hope they offer their own back."

Motions at a second EGM would demand an independent chairman appointed by the Governor of the Bank of England; outlawing of the use by names of bank guarantees on principal residences as Lloyd's deposits; and repeal of the section of the Lloyd's Act that protects Lloyd's and its officers from liability for damages. Initiatives to requisition a second EGM are likely to be strongly resisted within Lloyd's because of the time and cost involved.

Mr Astor said that as about 6,000 of the votes were from working names and their families and could therefore be discounted, the EGM Initiative had "tied two and won two" of its motions.

The Association of Lloyd's Members, which sponsored the motion of qualified confidence in the council, said it was "very pleased" by the result. It claimed: "This is in no way a vote for the establishment. It is a vote for changes that are vital for the future prosperity of Lloyd's."



Vindicated: David Coleridge's announcement of the results was greeted by applause

Level of market costs criticised

By Patricia Tehan

LLOYD'S is spending too much on reinsurance, brokerage and administration to compete successfully in the world insurance market, according to Chaset, an independent consultancy.

In 1990, syndicates paid out £1.37 billion in fees to brokers and incurred expenses of £768 million—in all, 39 per cent of the Lloyd's market's £5.49 billion net premiums for the year. In 1991, the percentage fell to 37 per cent of £5.63 billion.

John Rew, a director of Chaset, said that was still too high, compared with the 28 per cent expense ratio of the

Survey backs up bleak economic forecast by CBI

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

THE economy will be stuck in recession well into next year, with no significant upturn until the second half, assuming interest rates do not rise, predicts the Confederation of British Industry.

The bleak prognosis was made at the end of a week of currency market turbulence that kept the pound under pressure and fuelled fears of a monetary tightening in defence of sterling.

The Bank of England stabilised the pound on Wednesday with strong intervention, backed by a government pledge to keep the pound squarely in the exchange-rate mechanism.

The Bank of Italy was still intervening to defend the lira yesterday, while the Dutch central bank raised one of its key rates to shore up the guilder.

At the London close, sterling was slightly less than a penny from its absolute ERM floor of DM2.7874, about half a penny down on Thursday, having been close to DM2.7900 for much of the day.

The CBI forecast, released after the market closed, was accompanied by a disturbing monthly industrial trends survey for August. This indicated that manufacturers expect output to fall until the end of the year.

The CBI survey, conducted between July 28 and August 12, showed 27 per cent of respondents anticipating a fall in output, against 15 per cent expecting an increase. The balance of minus 12 per cent was the weakest since May 1991. Last month, the balance stood at minus 3 per cent.

Order books have also weakened over the past three months. Export orders improved in the last month, but remained weaker than at the start of the summer. More firms now expect to have to cut their prices over the next four months than to raise them.

Against this background, the CBI savagely cut its growth forecast. The output measure of gross domestic product is now expected to contract by 1 per cent this year instead of the 0.9 per cent growth the CBI had expected in May.

Next year, gdp is forecast to expand by 0.7 per cent, a quarter of the growth rate previously predicted. The economy will still be shrinking in the first three months of next year before frail growth appears in the second quarter.

But CBI economists, whose forecast assumes the base rate will be cut to 9.5 per cent in the second quarter of next year, gave warning that recovery would be further delayed if interest rates increase.

They calculate that every percentage point added to the base rate would shave 0.2 percentage points off gdp. The other risks are identified as further weakening in housing and insufficient growth in export markets.

The CBI said its latest assessment reflects the continued weakness in consumer spending, worsening output expectations, tight monetary policy, the high savings ratio and flat world trade.

The annual rise in factory gate prices is forecast to slow to 1.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1993 from 2.5 per cent in the final quarter this year.

Retail price inflation is predicted to slow to an annual 2.1 per cent from 3.4 per cent over the same period.

Job losses will continue to rise during the year to about 2.8 million, reaching a peak of about 3 million by the end of 1993.

Barclays seeks more time to give OFT details on charges

By Sara McConnell

BARCLAYS, the biggest processor of plastic debit and credit card payments, has written to the Office of Fair Trading asking for more time to supply detailed technical information about the prices it charges retailers for handling card transactions.

The OFT asked for the details two weeks ago as part of a continuing investigation into the processing of card transactions. This follows complaints in April by Tesco, Gateway, J. Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda, five leading retailers, that banks were acting together by putting up charges.

Information given by the banks and the retailers to the OFT will be used by Sir Bryan Cantrill, the director general, to decide if the matter should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Barclays, which processes nearly half of all credit and debit card transactions, told the OFT this week that the information it required "wasn't readily available in the form needed".

A Barclays spokeswoman said: "We are working on it now. We will have to run the necessary statistics through our computer." The OFT needed details of the costs of handling transactions and the revenue such transactions brought in, she added.

National Westminster, which has about 25 per cent of the card processing market, is understood to have given the OFT the information it requested. Midland declined to comment on whether it had replied to the OFT's letter.

Retailers have objected to an increase in the interchange fee, paid by the bank handling the retailer's transaction to the bank holding the cost of the account. The fee is meant to cover administration and marketing costs and an element for fraud.

The banks deny that they are operating a pricing cartel and say that they negotiate with each retailer individually. They also say they have held prices down for the past three years. The increases imposed in April add about 6p to the price of processing a £40 credit card transaction.

Some retailers are said to want to become merchant acquirers so that they can process their own transactions. This would require a change in the rules of Visa International and Mastercard International.

US dollar

1.9845 (+0.0059)
German mark
2.7874 (-0.0058)
Exchange index
92.0 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

Stocks

FT 30 share
1680.6 (-8.0)
FT-SE 100
2312.5 (+1.0)
New York Dow Jones
3282.21 (+7.57)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
17970.79 (+415.78)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10%-10.5%
3-month eligible bill: 10%-9.5%
US: Prime Rate: 9%
Federal Funds: 3.75%
3-month Treasury Bill: 3.17-3.15%
30-year bonds: 9.7%-9.75%

CURRENCY

London: New York:
£/\$1.9820 £/\$1.9820
£/DM2.7874 £/DM2.7874
£/Sfr2.4214 £/Sfr2.4214
£/FF9.5040 £/FF9.5040
£/Yen24.85 £/Yen24.85
£/Index 92.0 £/Index 92.0
Ecu1.375581 SDR1.745591
Ecu1.375581 SDR1.341217
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$340.50 PM \$340.00
Close \$339.80-340.30
£171.40-171.50
New York:
Comex \$339.35-339.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$19.25/bbl (\$19.70)

HEAT RATES

RPI: 138.8 July (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Indians' legal arrows strike Richmond oil deal

By Martin Barrow

RICHMOND OIL and Gas has smoked the pipes of peace with the Ute Indians of Colorado. But not before a dispute with them on property rights nearly scuppered a crucial deal, depriving the company of urgently needed funds and forcing creditors to foreclose on assets that usually contribute 90 per cent of revenue.

The company thought it was home and dry with a \$20 million deal to sell its interests in the San Juan coalbed methane properties. But appearances proved deceptive and by the financial year-end only \$12.6 million had been received, insufficient to resolve Richmond's funding difficulties.

A lawsuit filed by the Indians against 120 oil and gas operators in Colorado, including Richmond, made it impossible to close the deal. Under an agreement from the 1930s the Indians were given the rights to coal on their land. The tribe said that, because the methane gas came from within the coal, it was theirs. Richmond said the claim was

contentious because it was made after several years of coalbed methane production, but was obliged to negotiate an undisclosed settlement.

The \$7.4 million shortfall aggravated a financial crisis caused by lower gas production and prices, leaving Richmond unable to meet interest and principal payments due on March 31. Efforts to refinance debts secured on the Richmond Ranch, a property in Texas, failed and creditors foreclosed on the interest in June.

Richmond gave details of the Colorado dispute yesterday after announcing net losses of \$44 million for the year to the end-March, including an exceptional write-off of \$37.13 million against the Richmond Ranch property. The auditors' report will be qualified.

Richmond, an American company that came to the stock market in 1989 with a poorly received public sale, must rank as one of the least successful flotations seen in London. It has not yet made a profit and the shares, offered at 105p, are worth 5p.

But the company came back to the market barely 15 months after flotation with a £31 million rights issue that flopped. The Serious Fraud Office is investigating share dealings around the time of the rights issue.



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SPECIALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO HIGH RATE PAYERS

Tokyo rescue plan unleashes surge in yen and shares

By GEORGE SIVELL

JAPAN'S cabinet adopted a ¥10 trillion (\$80 billion) economic bail-out plan, sending the Nikkei stock average above 18,000 for the first time since early June. The average closed at 17,970, 415 higher, after the heaviest trading seen so far this year. It has risen by 3,661.38 points, or more than 25 per cent, in the past ten days.

The yen also surged, sending the dollar down. The US currency closed at 123.60 yen in Tokyo and at 124.77 yen in New York. Tokyo dealers said that although the government's action was belated it had averted financial collapse. Economists say that the plan is long-term and its effects might not be felt until the new fiscal year starts next April. So they still expect the Bank of Japan to cut interest rates, especially as money supply is growing very slowly and

industrial production has fallen for ten consecutive months. They criticised the plan, which is likely to be funded from postal savings and construction bonds, for not stimulating consumer spending.

The rescue package, larger than the \$48 billion wheeled out in 1987 after the global market crash, intends to make public works an engine of economic growth and could ultimately add a percentage point a year to economic growth. GNP is expected barely to top 2 per cent in the present year and perhaps to reach 2.5 per cent next year.

This is likely to keep Japan's trade surplus at record highs as companies turn to overseas markets to compensate. Europe and America will be worried, especially since Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, set a target of 3.5 per cent growth earlier this year to help

pull other nations out of recession.

The economy is "in a serious situation, characterised by a fall-off of the real economy and concern about the financial system due to a fall in asset prices", the ruling Liberal Democrats said. The Japanese government has denied for the past two years that the slow-down engineered to cool an overheated economy had spiralled out of control.

The rescue package includes about \$60 billion of public spending, \$9.7 billion in loans for small businesses and \$7.5 billion in capital investment loans, tax and lending breaks and new rules allowing public funds to invest in stocks.

The most significant part of the strategy is a proposal, announced last week, to set up a corporation that would rescue ailing banks from bad debts, reckoned to total anything between \$79 billion and \$550 billion. The corporation will buy property used as collateral for bad debt.

The assets of Japan's banks and corporations include large amounts of real estate, which supports their stock market prices. Stock and real estate prices plummeted together in the past two years. Now it is expected that banks will begin lending again by the end of the year.

Business leaders praised the package. "I appreciate the effort the government has made in putting together comprehensive drastic measures," said Gaiichi Hiraiwa, chairman of Keidanren, Japan's biggest business group.

But many analysts expressed concern that the economy was being artificially primed in an echo of the protected market practices that Japanese leaders have said they were outlawing.

The bail-out plan is similar to the American rescue of the savings and loan industry but even more radical.



Leaving the helm: Norman Corlett plans to keep his shares after his early retirement

Isle of Man ferry chief quits

By COLIN CAMPBELL

NORMAN Corlett has resigned as chairman of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company. The Manx ferry concern, in which Sea Containers holds a 41 per cent stake, said he had brought forward his retirement because of a family health matter.

His replacement would be announced shortly, the company said. Mr Corlett intended to retain his 2.5 per cent equity stake for the immediate future. The relationship between the company and Sea Containers, which said in August last year that it was

"disposed to make a bid", was currently "neutral".

One of Mr Corlett's last executive acts was to announce results for the six months to June 30. Turnover rose from £10.9 million to £11.3 million but, because of additional charges, pre-tax profits fell from £821,000 to £360,000.

Isle of Man Steam Packet is holding its interim dividend at 3p, though that is not covered by net interim earnings of 2.5p a share. The shares fell 12p to 168p. There were exceptional charges of £145,000. The company said

they related to severance payments, higher depreciation charges after £1 million of investments in passenger ships, and costs of overhauling one of the ships.

The first half is traditionally less profitable than the second and Isle of Man Steam Packet aims to develop the business away from total reliance on Isle of Man operations. It is also investigating replacement for the existing fleet.

The board said it was confident that the company would continue to perform well through the recession.

SA bank may make offer for Ansbacher

FIRST National Bank of Southern Africa is understood to be considering making an offer for Henry Ansbacher Holdings, the merchant bank, which yesterday confirmed it had ended similar discussions with its UK rival, Singer and Friedlander. John Hodson, the chief executive of Singer, said the talks broke down because "we just could not agree on a basis on which to go ahead".

Singer had been in talks with Ansbacher's two biggest shareholders, Pargesa and Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, which together hold 62 per cent. First National, South Africa's second-biggest bank, has been negotiating for several weeks and both sides are believed to be optimistic. Ansbacher officially refused to name its new partner and would only confirm it was in "advanced discussions with a third party".

Continuous goes private

CONTINUOUS Stationery will discontinue its stock exchange listing. The board has received a management buy-out proposal and recommends shareholders accept a 40p cash offer, valuing the group at £6.8 million. The group owns Frontaprint, the print and copy franchise network, and Carwin, distributor of business forms, and says the recession has meant difficult trading and a weak share price. The price makes it impracticable to continue a policy of growth by acquisition. The price was 23p in February and 34p before yesterday's announcement after which it rose to 38p.

Scottish Heritable loss

SCOTTISH Heritable Trust, a troubled mini-conglomerate, has failed to meet debt reduction targets set by banks as part of an interest standstill agreement that expires in December. The company reported pre-tax losses of £2.86 million for the six months to June 30, down from £3.15 million last time. There is again no interim dividend. Turnover fell from £38.44 million to £22.8 million as a result of disposals, the most significant being Standard Fireworks, which was sold to a management team for £27 million in May. The company said trading was unlikely to recover in the second half.

British-Borneo buys

BRITISH-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, the oil and gas production and investment company, has conditionally agreed to acquire Mobil Corp's 10 per cent interest in the Victor gas field in the North Sea for about £21.4 million. British-Borneo said the price was subject to post-completion adjustments and would be made in cash. The deal is also conditional on government approval and on the partners in the gas field not exercising their pre-emption rights. Victor has remaining proven and probable reserves of about 450 billion cubic feet of gas.

Crown sells French arm

CROWN Communications Group, the radio company that owns LBC in London, is to sell its French radio subsidiary, RFM, for an undisclosed price. The disposal is subject to the approval of the French radio authority. RFM has 100 rock music stations throughout France. Crown invested more than £16 million in the network, but RFM has remained deep in the red, accounting for almost 50 per cent of Crown's pre-tax losses of £6.79 million. Crown proposes to concentrate on its core business of LBC and another unidentified subsidiary. All other non-core businesses are for sale.

Ratner takes pay cut

GERALD Ratner took a 6.7 per cent pay cut last year from £615,953 to £574,452 as his jewellery group made a pre-tax loss of £122 million (£112 million profit), says the company's annual report released yesterday. Mr Ratner has stepped down as executive chairman but continues as chief executive. The company abandoned a performance-related bonus scheme as trading conditions deteriorated. It is thought that this year Mr Ratner will be paid about £375,000. The group will close 325 shops in Britain and America over the next three years with the likely loss of more than 1,000 jobs.

Belling creditors wait

SECURED and preferential creditors of Belling, the failed cooker maker, are likely to be paid in full, Paul Jeffrey, joint administrative receiver, said. The company has debts estimated at more than £28 million, including £4.5 million owed to Midland Bank, £2.4 million to preferential creditors and the balance to trade and other creditors. Mr Jeffrey, of KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, said it was too early to estimate how much unsecured creditors would receive.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:			
HSBC	340p (+8p)	Tomlinsons	248p (+8p)
Br Bio-Tech	462p (+20p)	Roosey Hawks	970p (+10p)
Mitel	100p (+12p)	Rank Org	304p (+15p)
Eng China Clay	460p (+8p)	Hepworth	284p (+16p)
Glaxo	722p (+8p)	Bass	474p (+14p)
Takeda Chem	489p (+12p)	Greene King	412p (+5p)
Wellcome	44p (+4p)	CALA	44p (+5p)
Carlson Comm	817p (+17p)	Meyer Int	204p (+31p)
FALLS:		Lloyds Chem	183p (+14p)
Net West	294p (-7p)	THORN EMI	666p (+13p)
Black (A&C)	340p (+10p)		

Closing Prices Page 25

RECENT ISSUES

Burkley (100)	91	-1	Telegraph (325)	281	...
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	101	...	Targ 1000 Smir Co Wts	13	...
Dartmoor Inv Tr Wts	8	...	Yorkshire TV Wts	14	-1 1/2
Dwyer A	19	...			
Euro Smir Co's	82	...			
Euro Smir Wts	22	...			
Finbury Smir Co O Prt	147	...			
Kiworth Endowment Play	100	...			
Quality Care Hms (136)	151	...			
SHIRESCOT	495	...			
TR Tech Us	1700	...			

RIGHTS ISSUES

Channel 5p N/P (20)	1/2	...
Malaysa Group 10p N/P (10)	7	...
Nowa Group 5p N/P (30)	1/2	...
Worthington 10p N/P (31 1/2)	1 1/2	...

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Disney's adventures in France have so far proved anything but a fairytale. Low attendances at its sprawling 1,500-acre theme park, had publicity and a sagging share price has forced the company to admit it is time for a rethink.

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THE TIMES

Nissan to cut staff after loss warning

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TOKYO

NISSAN Motor Corporation, Japan's second-biggest car-maker, yesterday gave warning of its first loss since 1951 and said it would cut its workforce by 4,000 over the next three years.

Nissan has revised its financial forecast because of poor demand and now expects a net loss of 20 billion yen (\$81 million) for the present fiscal year. It had previously forecast a ¥40 billion net profit.

Chiyoiko Sato, a spokeswoman, said the staff cuts would be made mainly by attrition, limits on new hiring and transfers of workers to subsidiaries and affiliated com-

panies. She said details had not been worked out.

Nissan said the profit revision was necessary because of a drop in sales in Japan and abroad that was more severe than expected. It said a quick recovery was unlikely.

This week, Toyota, Japan's largest car-maker, reported a 45 per cent fall in overall net profits in the year to end-June because of stalled sales.

In the year to end-March, Nissan had a net income of ¥54.2 billion, down 31 per cent from a year earlier. It expects sales in fiscal 1992 of ¥4.1 trillion, against an earlier estimate of ¥4.3 trillion.

Age discrimination costs Amex \$35m

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ACCUSATIONS of age discrimination in staffing one of its financial services divisions has cost American Express \$35 million. Thirty-two former divisional managers of IDS Financial Service in America, who brought a lawsuit over the policy, will share the court award.

The lawsuit, which was brought three years ago, alleged that after American Express took over IDS in 1984, managers aged over 40 were replaced by younger, less experienced employees in violation of the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act. Two years ago, the

US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission moved in to support the managers and will continue to monitor the American Express policy at IDS for the next four years as part of the settlement. IDS maintains the managers were replaced for legitimate non-discriminatory business reasons and that some voluntarily retired or resigned.

An IDS spokesman said it settled to avoid further costs. A lawyer for the managers said they were pleased with the decision, which does not give them the right to reclaim their jobs. Eight still work for the company.

Food retailers face prospect of a lean results season

JOHN Major may be delighted with progress in the battle against inflation. The men who run our leading food retailers can be forgiven for having mixed feelings.

They are entering what could be a long period of extremely slow rises in the prices of their products. More than ever they must look elsewhere, to cost-cutting, higher productivity and physical expansion to deliver the profit increases their shareholders have come to expect.

The theme is likely to dominate the forthcoming results season for Britain's food retailers, which kicks off with Iceland, the frozen foods specialist, next week and peaks in November when J. Sainsbury, Argyl and Kwik-Save report.

Last month, seasonal food prices fell sharply, by almost 10 per cent. Due to oversupply, falling commodity prices and a fiercely competitive mood in the market, cuts in some fresh produce prices were far greater. These factors have yet to show through in reported profits. But they will, for these days the shopper has the whip hand and will not buy if stores fail to reflect lower costs in their prices. It is too early to know whether the July downturn in fresh food prices continued over the summer and will go on into the autumn. Chances are it has and it will. This means food price inflation may be no more than

3 per cent this year — last seen in 1987. It will certainly fall far short of last year's 5.2 per cent, the 5.7 per cent average for the 1980s and the 14 per cent average of the high inflation 1970s.

Sales volumes are also under pressure, with July showing a slight drop against June, itself another month of falling volumes. It is thus hardly surprising that the leading store groups are full of special offers, discounts and promotions. In the 12 months to end-July, food sales volumes grew by just 0.5 per cent. New store prices and falling volumes are the stuff of retail nightmares. There is little in the economic numbers to warm the hearts of shareholders. Investors may cool towards the sector before the results season.

Shares outperformed

FOOD retailing has performed according to the script this year. Traditionally a safe haven in recessions, the sector, dominated by J. Sainsbury, Tesco and Argyl, lived up to expectations, compensating for a dismal 1991, which was marred by stories of price wars, rights issues and fears the recession was so severe even food groups would suffer. This year, the FTA all share index has shed about 7 per cent while food



In the driving seat: Alastair Grant of Argyl, which tops most brokers' buy lists

retailers have gained a similar amount. This performance would have been more impressive but for cases such as Albert Fisher, whose shares have roughly halved since it became clear a management re-think is essential. Asda, too, has been hit, but is recovering under Archie Norman.

Whether the sector can consolidate and build on the outperformance depends not so much on the results as on prospects. There are grounds

for optimism but mostly among the leaders. Sainsbury, Tesco and Argyl, which runs the Safeway chain, benefit more than their smaller rivals from the economies of substantial store openings. Superstores enable their owners to squeeze more profit from static or slowly growing volumes. In state-of-the-art stores, sales per sq ft tend to be greater, labour costs lower and net profits thus higher. The gains are the three leaders, which are also

bearing down on pay, a key cost element, and investing more than their rivals in new technology. Despite the dull economic background, therefore, the leaders can push earnings forward, at a pace that justifies the outperformance of the shares.

Argyl ahead

ARGYL is top of most brokers' buy lists, with Alastair Grant, chairman, and his

management firmly established as the team that delivers what it promises. Safeway's like-for-like sales growth leads the industry and costs are well under control. Argyl shares do not have the premium rating of Sainsbury and should continue to outperform the market unless sentiment towards the sector reverses sharply.

Some analysts have been advising clients to switch from Sainsbury to Argyl. Few dispute that Sainsbury is the price leader. But there is concern that November's first-half results may be depressed due to the poor volume and price trends. Sainsbury's premium rating may look unsustainable, especially if there is poor news from Homebase, the non-food subsidiary, or if the weaker dollar hits Shaw, the American operation.

Tesco shares have been subdued this year, trailing the other two sector leaders. The reasons are not entirely clear. Analysts have been disappointed with like-for-like sales compared with its rivals and there are concerns that Tesco's customer profile may have been more vulnerable to the recession and unemployment than others.

But if Tesco may not be today's star, its day will come. The store-building programme is huge and will propel earnings for years to come. The downside is surely limited.

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الجمعة 29 أغسطس 1992

BUSINESS PROFILE: James Tuckey

Man of property with an affinity for the land

The head of MEPC blends blue-chip credentials with the objectivity of an outsider, as Carol Leonard discovered

James Tuckey, chief executive of MEPC, the second-biggest property company in Britain, is 46 years old, has been in his present job for four years and has the world at his feet.

In nine years' time, when he reaches the age of 55, he will, he predicts, have left the employ of MEPC — salary at present circa £200,000 — and as he ponders what he might do next he is perhaps unaware that this is a question also being posed by other people in the property world. Will he collect a knighthood, they muse, enter parliament or tackle another corporate entity?

Next year, during one of the most difficult periods in its history, Tuckey will become president of the general council of the British Property Federation, an influential pressure group that represents the views of both commercial and institutional property owners. If it can be used as any sort of yardstick, this means he has risen, in the eyes of his peers, to more or less the top of his chosen profession. He is also a director of Abbey National, an investment adviser to the BP pension fund and is a governor of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, where he once studied to become a chartered surveyor.

Add to that the fact that he is an adviser, via the Duchy of Cornwall, to the Prince of Wales on matters of architecture and design, and the blue-chip mixture is complete. "I am quite sympathetic to his views," says Tuckey, choosing his words with care.

Tuckey prides himself on taking particular interest in the aesthetic qualities of MEPC's developments. He harbours, he says, creative ideas. "I know the bottom line is very important but I have seriously tried to improve the quality of the buildings we

make. I'm very proud of a number of them." He cites Alban Gate, an office development in the City, and shopping centres in Tunbridge Wells and Leamington Spa, as examples.

He refrains from saying, however, that those creative ideas will not be satisfied until MEPC can lay claim to a development of greater, perhaps national, significance. Harriet, his wife of 18 years, reveals that at one stage he had hoped MEPC would win the controversial contract to redevelop the square adjacent to St Paul's Cathedral. "The real pleasure he gets from his job is not from power, status or prestige," she says. "If he could cause beautiful buildings to be built, that would give him far greater pleasure. Not some enormous edifice with his name on it, just something very beautiful."

Tuckey might be about to become the president of his trade body, he might be chief executive of a £750 million firm, and he might admit that he would dearly like that firm, under his direction, to claim the number one slot from Land Securities in the league table of property giants, but he does not come across as a man driven by a single-minded desire to see his own name in lights. He is unerringly modest. At cocktail parties, if asked what his job is, he will either describe himself as a chartered surveyor or say that he works for a property firm.

His youthful appearance and relaxed, personable manner belie his competitive spirit and will to win. He might pop down to the pub if a long-serving member of staff is leaving, but seldom stays longer than an hour. In fact, he admits he is naturally inclined to shun after-work drinking sessions, so that he can run the four miles home instead — carrying papers he needs to



High rise: James Tuckey is about to reach the top of his profession as president of the British Property Federation

work on that night in a rucksack on his back. Tuckey gives the impression that, as a student, he always did the minimum amount of work necessary to scrape through, but impressions can be — and are — misleading. His wife corrects that supposition, saying: "He does the minimum necessary to get by comfortably." One of his contemporaries at Cirencester once observed: "James always does the minimum of work necessary to come first."

Tuckey is undeniably bright but is, in some ways, undereducated. Conscious of what he perceives as a weak link, he habitually puts himself down. "My wife is much cleverer than me — it is a cross I have to bear," he quips at one point in the interview. He fails to mention that his reason for claiming this is because Harriet graduated from Essex University with a first class degree in literature.

"I have never had my intelligence tested, my academic ability stretched," he says. "If I had my time over again, I would definitely go to university. Yes, I do feel undereducated, very much so, and when I eventually pack it all in, one of my options is to go and get myself educated. I would study architecture or history."

Tuckey insists he has no interest in a political career, or

another major business challenge. "I don't want to become another King or Hanson," he says. Instead he identifies his other option as being to return to the land, to bring his life full circle.

An early affinity with farming and life outdoors was what prompted him to go to Cirencester. That affinity resulted from his parents' decision, when Tuckey was four years old, to emigrate to Rhodesia, buy 5,000 virgin acres and turn them into a tobacco plantation. Tuckey's father, employed in the Sheffield steel industry, had decided post-war Britain had little to offer and persuaded his wife and three sons to exchange a rectory in Derbyshire for a canvas awning in an unknown land.

"It was an amazing experience," Tuckey recalls. "For the first two years we camped beneath a piece of canvas tied at the side of our Land Rover. The first priority was to put up the farm buildings to allow the farm to operate. It was certainly a struggle. My father had to learn how to farm, and to farm in Africa."

After two years the canvas awning was replaced by a series of interconnecting mud huts and five years after that the mud was replaced with brick and thatch.

"We were 100 miles from

the nearest cinema and 25 miles from the nearest village. My mother tried to teach me by correspondence course but it was a constant battle and so I was sent away to school, in southern Rhodesia, when I was seven."

Tuckey admits that these childhood experiences have had a profound effect on him. "One developed a sense of independence quickly, an appreciation of the outdoors and a preference for an active rather than a reflective life."

Far from longing for a more conventional upbringing, Tuckey talks as if he were especially privileged. "We learned how lucky we were to have that amazing chance in life."

"My parents were adventurous, prepared to have a go and enjoy themselves. We employed a huge labour force and one realised, at a young

age, that they were not as well off as we were." He admits that, like his father, he would be capable of upping sticks and emigrating. "It is something we have occasionally talked about but it's just a dream and we always put it away again, back in the drawer."

Earlier ambitions to return to his parents' farm, post-Cirencester, were abandoned as political tension in Rhodesia heightened and the young Tuckey instead got a job as a surveyor with Savills in Dorset, before joining MEPC in 1971.

His home now is as conventional as the one he once had in Derbyshire — a Victorian town house in Holland Park, London. And he too has three children, Venetia, 14, Lizzy, 12, and Rose, 11. He is comfortable with the transformation from an all-male to all-

female environment. "I'm not a men's bar person at the golf club. I prefer mixed company," he says.

Tuckey is gregarious, good-humoured and attentive. He is also exceptionally good at dealing with people, be it socially or corporately. His wife says: "He is very good at saying 'nasty', unpalatable things in a nice way. He is good at organising people, bringing out the best in them and making things happen. Wherever we go people want him to get involved and help run things."

Tuckey admits that organisational drive can cause him to be bossy. "My wife would say I was definitely bossy," he says — and colleagues say that if they had to identify one fault it would be that he finds it extremely difficult to admit his mistakes.

MEPC, however, has made mistakes in the property crash of the 1990s, along with most other such firms, but it is faring better than most. In the six months to March, pre-tax profits fell to £58.6 million, from £67.4 million the previous year.

Its performance for the rest

three years and then only of four or five per cent a year. He then admits that since he lived through the property crash of the 1970s and early 1980s, he should perhaps have seen the warning signs, and batted down MEPC's hatches earlier. "One talks about experience being the great teacher but we all missed," he says.

"We all knew that the boom of the 1980s could not continue but we thought it would level off. It has been very humbling for everybody in the business to admit that collectively we got it wrong."

He certainly had expert advice readily available. Indeed, his two older brothers have had equally successful careers. One is now deputy chairman of Barnetts, the merchant bank; the other has just been made a High Court judge.

One of Tuckey's colleagues, however, claims that his success has to be traceable to the brothers' up-bringing. Ted Johnson, joint managing director of MEPC Investments, says: "He is more objective than other people born in the UK and that must be because he was brought up in another country. It is a less cosy existence."

Tuckey, in a rare moment of introspection, agrees. "It's the old immigrant thing, isn't it?" he says. "You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Because I had a South African accent people were not able to put you into a pigeon hole. When people asked what school you went to, if you said Eton or Leeds Grammar, it would have meant something, but when I said Plumtree, no one knew what that meant. You were completely classless and that has made an enormous difference."

He predicts no increase in commercial values for two or

'It has been very humbling for everybody in the business to admit that collectively we got it wrong'

'I have tried to improve the quality of our buildings. I'm very proud of a number of them'

Matthew Bond

Our Norman has his finest seconds as the nation gathers at sterling's bedside

I DON'T know whether you have noticed, but the dramatic events of the past few days seem to have rekindled a Little Englander spirit that I for one thought long gone.

Every morning, in the cities and shores of Britain, families have gathered in hushed expectation around their wireless sets. And every morning Brian Perkins adopts his most solemn tone, the one for times of national emergency, and announces what the whole country is waiting to hear: "Sterling passed another comfortable night."

The relief is tangible — I could swear I've even seen a couple of hats whistling through the early morning air. Perfect strangers smile at each other on the way to work, pausing only to adopt a more sympathetic look as a neighbour looks up from the newspaper and says: "I see the old dollar copped it again last night."

For those without the benefit of computer technology, the rest of the day is spent trying to satiate a growing addiction for news. On the hour, every hour, is barely enough to satisfy the persistent question: "How fares the pound?"

The answer, of course, lies deep within the Bank of England, in the intensive care ward reserved for critically ill currencies. Around the bed, the air of quiet efficiency is disturbed only by the irregular, sometimes very irregular, bleep of the ERM monitoring device. But as long as the chilling, continuous tone of devaluation is avoided, the doctors are content.



sional, silent look, joined by the knowledge that it has been tough and go on more than one occasion.

Slowly, there are signs that the patient is responding to treatment. It cannot be long before Brian Perkins adopts his slightly lighter tone to announce: "Sterling is this morning sitting up in bed and taking liquids" and prompts hurrahs from the anxious crowd in Threadneedle Street. Not, of course, that the Bank averted disaster unaided. We must not forget the gallant contribution of good old Norman, who stood alone on the steps of the Treasury and defied the world's markets to do their worst.

As a harbinger of recovery, it was a long way from the sledgehammer approach of the Japanese. True, it did not

quite produce the 25 per cent rise in share prices that anticipation of Japan's \$80 billion reflation bonanza produced, but what do you expect for the price of a standby return from Pisa? Norman's response to a crisis was to be quintessentially — or possibly scintillantly — British.

There was one nasty moment. An untimely crackle on the wireless left me, for one, believing that Mr Lamont had cut short his holiday to quash the slightest chinchilla of doubt. Really, I thought, blaming a small, scorpional, furry animal for the country's economic woes was bad enough, but to deliberately pick on the smallest. Had he forgotten Britain's traditional love of things furry?

But from then on Mr Lamont was word perfect,

which is more than can be said of some of those foreign johnnies. Almost before our Norman finished his stirring "read my lips — no devaluation" speech, the Germans hummed in with their two pterugers worth.

Now Reimut Jochimsen may be very big in North Rhine-Westphalia, big enough even to be president of the region's central bank, but does that really make him a leading authority on ERM alignment?

Well, for a couple of hours he thought it did, until the Bundesbank was persuaded (a quiet word from our Norman) to bundle his unsound thoughts on the subject off the world's news wires.

As the week continued, it became clear that even German politicians were growing tired of the ceaseless interventions of their unelected banking colleagues, who seemed determined to grind the entire European economy to a halt simply to stop rents in Hesse — apparently the cause of German inflation rising to the giddy heights of 3.5 per cent — from going up too fast. Never mind Hesse rents, what about British house prices?

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, made a valiant effort to repair the damage by calling for lower interest rates, but spoiled the effect by adding "in the medium term", which is political shorthand for the twelfth of never.

With the Germans fighting among themselves, it was left to Michel Sapin, the French finance minister, to back Mr Lamont's avowal that there would be no realignment of the ERM. That is until the French vote *non* to Maastricht on September 20.

But nothing can detract from the Chancellor's victories this week. No realignment, no devaluation and no rise in interest rates — it was his finest 30 seconds.

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STOCK MARKET

The graph displays two data series over a 12-month period from August 1987 to August 1988. The y-axis represents value in pence, ranging from 200 to 550. The x-axis lists the months from Aug to Aug. The 'FT all-share index (rebased)' is shown as a jagged line that fluctuates between approximately 400 and 500 pence. The 'Share price' is shown as a line that starts at 500 pence in August 1987, remains relatively stable until January 1988, then drops sharply to around 250 pence by February 1988, and continues to decline with some minor fluctuations to approximately 220 pence by August 1988.

Month	FT all-share index (rebased) (pence)	Share price (pence)
Aug 87	450	500
Sep 87	480	500
Oct 87	450	500
Nov 87	480	500
Dec 87	450	500
Jan 88	480	500
Feb 88	450	250
Mar 88	480	240
Apr 88	450	230
May 88	480	240
Jun 88	450	230
Jul 88	480	220
Aug 88	450	220

Persimmon, 6p to 173p.
Scottish & Newcastle fell a further 7p to 383p, still reflecting this week's gloomy statement to the annual meeting. **Chairman Sir Alick Rankin** gave a warning that conditions had deteriorated. It was a message echoed by rival **Greene King**, down 10p at 412p, and came hard on the heels of a profits warning from **Grand Metropolitan**, 1p lighter at 388p.

Continuous Stationery, the printing and copying group, rose 4p to 38p after receiving news of a bid approach worth 40p a share from rival **Fontprint**, valuing the

Hang Seng index up 167.81 points, or 3.07 per cent, at 5,628.60. Brokers differed over the precise cause of the surge, with some saying the market was oversold and sentiment had been sweetened by Tokyo's rebound and several good interim results from blue-chip companies. Yesterday's advance was led by a clutch of blue chips. (Reuters)

opinion poll indicated that the French were likely to reject the Maastricht treaty in the referendum on September 20.

In the futures market, the long gilt suffered an early fall, touching E94^{3/16} before rallying to hit a peak of E94^{27/32}. It closed three ticks lower at E94^{17/32}. In longs, Treasury 9% per cent, 2002 finished E^{1/16} better at E100^{19/32}, while, at the shorter end, Treasury 8% per cent, 2017 lost five ticks to E95^{5/16}.

Henry Anshecher was steady at 26p after reporting that it was at an advanced stage of bid talks with another suitor. Earlier discussions with **Singer & Friedlander**, unchanged at 34p, were terminated.

Carlton Communications shrugged off some of this week's dollar-related nervousness to finish 12p better at 559p.

Vodafone also recovered from an early fall to finish 1p firmer at 82p.

MICHAEL CLARK

MICHAEL CLARK

HOW TO SELL

1. Fill in the coupon signed by all shareholders and send by first class post together with the relevant certificate to the company's share clearing list. If you have more than one share, first check to see if the relevant share certificate has a form of transfer on the back. If there is a form then the registered holder is to sign where it is marked. If not, upon receipt of your certificate, the company will issue a new one. If you are selling by proxy (i.e. you are signed by the registered holder(s)), your shares cannot be sold until the signed transfer form has been returned signed.
2. A contract note confirming sale details (day and price) will be sent to the New Zealand Accounts Office. The Members Clearing selling fee will be sent to you by post.
3. You may sell part of your shareholding in any one company for an additional £3.00 to cover balance certificate costs.
4. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to call on 0222 673 600.

100%	99%	Treas 10% 2001	101%	- 1/2	9.84	9.70	97%	99%	Treas 12 1/4% 2001	99%	- 1/2	4.42	4.35
121	115 1/2%	Treas 14% 1998-01	115 1/2%	- 1/2	13.09	10.30							

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Lenders

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

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Edited by Sara McConnell

Downfall of endowment policies

There used to be two stock answers to the question: "Why should I take out an endowment mortgage?" One was that the policy would pay off the mortgage in 25 years' time. The other was that the policy would also pay out a nice tax-free lump sum.

Now neither of these answers can be sustained. Guardian Royal Exchange predicted this week that some insurers' current with-profits policies might not pay the bonuses needed to cover even the mortgage repayment. GRE was brave to articulate this fear because its investment performance has not been spectacular and it cut bonuses this year, putting it at the bottom of the payout league tables. It has said publicly what others have said privately — that present levels of bonus rates are unsustainable.

Throughout the 1980s, bonus payouts soared as companies competed to attract business. They could afford double digit bonus payouts because the value of the equities, particularly property stocks, in which policyholders' contributions

were invested rose sharply. Also, 25-year endowment mortgages were selling fast to first-time buyers desperate to get on to the housing ladder. Borrowers committed themselves more heavily and larger loans meant larger endowments.

Now an estimated 80 per cent of home owners have endowment mortgages. All are paying premiums based on assumptions that large bonuses will be added to the policy every year, more than covering the total mortgage debt. Life offices and their salesmen rarely make it clear that there is no cast iron guarantee that the endowment will pay off the loan and that if it does not, any shortfall will have to be paid by the borrower.

Many who took out endowments in the past three years should never have been sold them. Single people and couples with no dependants were put under pressure to buy them



SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

by salesmen, including building societies and estate agents, keen to get the commission. Long-term endowments are an unsatisfactory way to save and an overpriced way of insuring the life of a borrower.

Growth in the first years of the policy is minimal because there are high set-up charges, reflecting high commission. At the same time, savers are locked in for 25 years, knowing that they will have to keep up the policy for at least five years before they even get their money back if they want to cash in. It is an expensive way to ensure the mort-

COMMENT

also do not show how few policyholders stayed the 25-year course. Most companies admit that less than half the endowments sold reach maturity.

So borrowers are stuck with a policy they may not have wanted in the first place, which may not even deliver what it was meant to. Even if the mortgage is covered, it is less likely they will be left with any significant tax-free lump sum. They have the right to feel betrayed.

Repossessions

Lack of co-ordination between lenders and local authorities is needlessly prolonging the agony of some families needing to be rehoused after their homes have been repossessed. A London Research Centre report this week said that nine out of ten local authorities received no advance notification

from lenders of householders in their area threatened with repossession. The report accuses many lenders of not following guidelines laid down by the Council of Mortgage Lenders to warn local authorities if rehousing may be necessary.

Many people facing repossession may have little or no contact with a local authority housing department before and will need reassurance and help. Authorities have an important role in offering debt counselling, or in some cases putting people on a mortgage rescue scheme to keep them in their homes, but say it is often too late when they discover repossession is imminent.

Just as worrying is the finding that in many cases lenders are not helpful to local authorities that approach them about arrears. The Council of Mortgage Lenders says that it was instrumental in setting up a working party with local authorities in June, but said it "wouldn't dispute that liaison was patchy. We are working hard to find good model notification arrangements." They need to make this a top priority.

'Cowboys' to be targeted in self-build sort-out

Last year 23,000 people built their own homes.

Sara McConnell looks at some of the pitfalls

AS THE housing market continues its seemingly endless journey through the doldrums, the idea of buying a piece of land and building a house may seem an elaborate way of obtaining the right property when any buyer should be spoilt for choice in the traditional market.

In the boom years of the eighties, as prices rose out of many people's reach, building a home seemed to some to be the only way to obtain just the right home in areas that they liked. Self-build houses can cost up to 40 per cent less than buying the existing equivalent.

Even though traditional homes are now more affordable than they have been for years, there is still a steady stream of pioneers ready to break virgin ground. Last year, an estimated 23,000 people decided to ignore the glut of ready-built homes and strike out on their own. Figures from the National House-Building Council (NHBC) for the same year show a 4 per cent rise in value-added tax returns by self-builders against a 6 per cent drop in the number of homes built by developers. These people are prepared to put up with months, sometimes years, of upheaval, living in caravans on site, spending every weekend poring over plans, perhaps directing builders or even digging the foundations themselves.

They appear not to be put off by the fear that the home they are sweating over may now be depreciating faster than they can build it. On the contrary, say the organisers of this year's National Self-Build Homes Show, to be held at London's Alexandra Palace between September 17 and 20, they should benefit from lower land prices. "As cash strapped developers sell off portions of their land banks to realise capital and decrease interest repayments on land reserves, so it is easier to find a plot to build on. Additionally, with fewer building contracts being awarded, more small builders and sub-contractors are available for work at increasingly competitive rates."

Being able to buy land and materials cheaper could help to offset any depreciation losses. However, those hoping to sell property to raise money



Home of their own: Carol and Simon Drury outside their home in Rochester, Kent

to build another one will have the same difficulty as anyone else. As they have to provide a larger deposit to get a self-build loan, this could cause problems.

The National Self-Build Homes Show is hoping for 40,000 visitors, up on the 34,486 it attracted last year. The show will also see the public launch of the Individual House Builders' Association, a trade association that

Self-built houses can cost up to 40 per cent less than buying the existing equivalent

aims to weed out the "cowboys" from the industry and offer guidance on such subjects as finance, plot finding and methods of construction to people building homes. Gurnel Westley, the association's chairman, said: "It has become apparent that at self-build shows there are companies with lovely sales brochures, but we know that they are just working out of a shed at the bottom of the garden. It is inevitable in a growing industry that there are cowboys, but people have no protection from them." The IHBA intends to monitor potential members, asking for information on their company

background, products, services and guarantees. The association said: "Manufacturers must agree to independent inspection of their facilities and to name three future projects which can be monitored by the IHBA. Builders must be NHBC registered, give three customer references and name three future projects which the association can monitor. Sub-contractors must give the names of the architects or NHBC builders who supervised work on their last three projects." The association will also be publishing a directory of members next year.

Ms Westley said there were also long-term plans to set up a bond scheme similar to that operated by the Association of British Travel Agents that would cover people's losses if a member did go under.

The IHBA shies away from the term "self-build", which it said has "DIY implications" and an "association with group self-build".

These ill-fated group self-build schemes are still remembered with a shudder by those involved, particularly those lenders like National & Provincial, which had their fingers burnt.

Group self-build schemes were conceived during the housing boom, when people with different building and construction skills bought plots of land together and built houses. However, Stephen Bell, National & Provincial's development finance manager, said: "The value of the developments started to fall so that it was sometimes less than the cost of building. Then, if one of the group resigned, it meant the rest lost skills and it was difficult to find someone else."

The rest of the group also faced higher repayments as the loan was made to the group rather than individually. There had also been potential for abuse with speculative builders trying to sell on homes instead of living in them, Mr Bell said. "We wanted people who couldn't afford homes to build their own," he said.

construction, as will the Abbey, which specifies it will not lend more than 75 per cent of the value of the finished house.

At every stage lenders will send a surveyor to inspect the work and will charge a valuation fee of between £30 and £50. They will only be looking at the construction to value it, not to inspect the quality of the work, but will probably pick up glaring errors.

Builders employed by the borrower will need to be members of the NHBC for the lender to advance a loan. A certificate from Foundation 15, which inspects self-build properties, is also acceptable.

David Tuffin, immediate past president of the building surveyors division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, recommended that people use a surveyor or architect to oversee and inspect the different stages of the work, including helping to get planning permission from the local authority. Surveyors charge either hourly or as a percentage of the total construction cost. Otherwise they can charge a fixed lump sum.

Kits make move from caravan to house a reality

SIMON and Carol Drury are looking forward to this Christmas. They are hoping to move out of the cramped and poorly heated caravan they have been living in for a year and into the house they are building on a plot of land near Rochester, Kent (Sara McConnell writes). They expect the four-bedroom house to cost them about £115,000, including land.

The Drurys knew nothing about building and had never considered building their own home. But after the house they were hoping to buy fell through last year, they started to consider buying some land in the Kent countryside and saw the piece of land they wanted as they drove past it one day. "We could never afford to buy a house in this area because it's so expensive, but we're keen to get on and we've always wanted to live around here," Mr Drury said.

The couple, who run their own garage business, consulted books on self-build, as well as *Build-It*, the specialist self-build magazine, then wrote to "every supplier" of timber-framed flat-packed "kits". "We didn't want to start building from nothing," Mr Drury said. They chose a house from a range by Medina Gimson, a

company specialising in factory-built timber-frame houses based in Tonbridge, Kent. All the parts are delivered ready made to the site and erected either by the company or by the buyers, with or without the help of builders.

After one unsuccessful attempt at digging the foundations for the house, Mr Drury decided to leave the heavy work to professionals. "I tried to dig the foundations and hired a digger, but the digger got stuck and it was raining and it had cost me a weekend and £110." Since then, Mr Drury has concentrated on applying his more highly developed management skills to employing people to work on the house.

Usefully, the man who had sold the Drurys the land was a builder, so they enlisted his help, not knowing any other builders. A carpenter friend is

doubling up as site foreman and relatives and friends will be plastering and decorating, as the inside of the house takes shape.

Apart from money they had from the sale of their previous home, the couple are funding the building with an overdraft from Lloyds Bank, secured on Mr Drury's parents' home. This perhaps unorthodox arrangement has worked well because the Drurys already have a good business relationship with the bank.

The Rochester upon Medway council was also helpful, apart from some initial hesitation that there was too little space left at the front of the house.

In Lancashire, the steepness of the roof of the house the Pyne family wants to build is preoccupying the local council. Nigel and Susan Pyne have four boys aged between

two and seven-and-a-half and are "bursting at the seams" in their three bedroomed house in Millom, Cumbria. With five bedroomed houses in the area costing about £200,000, the Pynes believe they can build their own timber-framed house for £130,000, including £50,000 for the land they are in the middle of buying. They have extended their mortgage with the Abbey National to buy the land, but are also waiting to sell their present home.

Everything seemed to be going well until this week, when the council hesitated over the roof's steepness, Mrs Pyne said. "Their reaction seemed negative to me but Potton [the timber-frame house company selling the house] seemed to think it was just one of those things."

Now the Pynes are waiting to see if the roof can be flattened to satisfy the council before they go ahead. If they do, Mrs Pyne is planning to do most of the interior herself, having practised by "completely gutting" and redecorating their present home. Mr Pyne will be carrying out wiring and plumbing, but they will get professional help with the rest of the building.

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Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44				
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17	+5	-6	-6	+2	+6																																											
18	+4	-4	-4	+2	+4																																											
19	+6	-2	-2	+1	+8																																											
20	+8	-5	-5	+3	+7																																											
21	+5	-4	-4	+2	+3																																											
22	+6	-2	-2	+1	+8																																											
23	+3	-3	-3	+1	+4																																											
24	+7	-2	-2	+1	+8																																											
25	+8	-3	-3	+2	+6																																											
26	+3	-4	-4	+1	+4																																											
27	+8	-4	-4	+3	+8																																											
28	+3	-4	-4	+1	+9																																											
29	+7	-6	-6	+3	+5																																											
30	+8	-1	-1	+2	+7																																											
31	+4	-3	-3	+2	+3																																											
32	+7	-2	-2	+1	+7																																											
33	+4	-4	-4	+3	+4																																											
34	+5	-5	-5	+2	+5																																											
35	+8	-4	-4	+1	+5																																											
36	+6	-4	-4	+3	+4																																											
37	+8	-1	-1	+3	+1																																											
38	+4	-2	-2	+1	+3																																											
39	+4	-3	-3	+1	+5																																											
40	+4	-4	-4	+3	+4																																											

Competitiveness is expected to increase as shares suffer from slow growth, Rupert Bruce says

THE conventional wisdom of investment in the 1980s, when shares were the undisputed king, is being turned on its head. Today, a lot of the smart money is turning to bonds.

Market experts believe bonds will provide returns that are increasingly competitive with shares in the 1990s, but without so much volatility. The logic is that this will be a decade of low economic growth and shares, therefore, will perform less well.

Tim Kay, fund manager of the Baring Global Bond Trust, said: "The differential in return between bonds and equities will narrow, but the differential in risk will remain the same, and that, of course, makes bonds relatively more attractive."

Apart from the long-term argument for bonds, there is the added bonus that European and UK bonds are expected to perform well when German and other European interest rates fall.

Martin Woodier, director of fixed income at Fidelity Investments, predicts that German rates will come down 1 per cent in the next year. That would imply a 14 per cent rise in bond prices in the UK and Europe, he calculates.

If the exchange-rate mechanism holds together and withstands the type of shocks it had



this week, bonds in countries with high inflation, such as the UK, might do even better. As inflation rates come down to levels normally associated with Germany, so should interest rates. That would boost bond prices further. In Germany, where traditionally low inflation has made bonds a more sensible investment than they have been in the UK, bond funds make up 83 per cent of the mutual fund industry. That compares with only 2 per cent in the UK.

For the private investor, there are two practical ways to buy bonds: invest in a fund or buy British government bonds, known as gilts. Funds

can be bought through financial advisers and stockbrokers. Gilts are available at the Post Office and through stockbrokers. There are international funds and UK funds on offer. Both invest in quality government and corporate bonds. These funds are also available as UK unit trusts or offshore funds. Of the two, an offshore fund bought from a reputable investment manager is the most tax efficient. Offshore funds pay income gross of tax as opposed to UK funds, which pay it net.

The arguments for bonds apply equally to UK and international bond funds, but Microanal statistics show that

UK funds have tended to perform better. That is probably because the UK bond fund manager only has to look after his bond investments, while his international rival has to ride the choppy foreign exchange markets too.

To illustrate the point, the average UK bond fund showed a total return (income plus capital gain) after costs, of 6 per cent over the past year, 16 per cent over the past three years and 33 per cent over the past five years. The average international bond fund's comparative returns were a marginal decline, 10 per cent and 17 per cent respectively. Anyone who wants to invest

in one of those funds should choose one not only on its performance but also on the way it splits its return into capital and income. The Guinness Flight premium fixed-interest fund, for example, pays a high 9.29 per cent income yield, but its capital value has risen by only 2 per cent, after costs, in the past year. Some bond funds give so much priority to income that their capital value falls.

The most tax efficient way to buy gilts is through the Post Office, because dividends are paid gross of income tax, although anyone who is liable for income tax will have to pay it eventually. Alternatively, gilts can be bought through a stockbroker, which has the benefit of being a good source of advice.

Private investors might consider a spread of perhaps three gilts, all maturing at different times. If carefully planned, this would smooth the capital performance of the holding and spread the dividend payments throughout the year.

Of the two routes, an investment in gilts seems likely to be the most profitable. Microanal's statistics show that bond funds have rarely matched the 9 to 10 per cent annual gross redemption yield currently offered by gilts. UK bond funds might match that performance if it were not for their high initial charges, which are usually about 5 per cent of an investment.

Gilts have the advantage

Pensions body proposes fairer deal

NAPF plans seek to avert poverty of divorced retirees

By Liz Dolan

FUNDAMENTAL changes to the income of divorced pensioners have been proposed by the National Association of Pension Funds.

In almost all cases, the proposals would help women substantially improve their position at the expense of their former husbands. Where women are the main wage earners at the time of the divorce, however, their husbands would benefit.

In a submission to a working party on pensions and divorce, set up under the auspices of the Pensions Management Institute, the association suggests divorcing couples should be able to divide the value of accrued pension rights equally.

The money must be used to buy new pension plans, a restriction designed to help reduce the poverty suffered by divorced women after they retire.

According to Robin Ellison, a pensions lawyer and member of the working party, more than one in eight women over 60 will be divorced by the year 2025, compared with 3 per cent in 1985.

The association is not suggesting that couples must always divide pension rights equally on divorce. It simply says the divorce settlement must leave each partner with the value of half the pension rights. For instance, if the family home and joint pension rights are of equal value, the wife may choose the former and the husband the latter.

Brian MacMahon, chairman of the association, denied that the pensions industry had been wrong-footed by the Conservatives' surprise election victory. However, he



Working women: June Bridgeman of the Equal Opportunities Commission

agreed the working party had been set up in response to a pre-election statement by the Labour party that the division of pension rights for divorcing couples would be addressed early on in the life of a Labour government.

Despite the popular conception that the pensions industry was a "take it or leave it" body, "our policies are driven by the needs of employees and their families," he said.

The PMI is chaired by a former permanent secretary at the social security department. The association's submission

is one of more than 100 under consideration by the group, which also includes representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Law Society.

Mr MacMahon said that he saw no reason why the final institute recommendations should not find favour with the government, because they were "a very useful, worthwhile social measure, and won't cost them anything".

June Bridgeman, deputy chairperson of the EOC, said: "There are now more women working in Britain than in any

other European country except Denmark, yet the vast majority still face poverty in retirement."

A report by the institute is due in the spring. Its proposals are likely to involve a change in the law.

Several pension funds are governed by rules that will not allow the transfer of pension rights to a third party. The legislation will have to be approved by several government departments, including the Inland Revenue, the DSS and the Lord Chancellor's Office.

Birmingham Midshires and Bristol and West building societies have both reduced their savings rates. Birmingham's have been cut by an average 0.2 per cent. Other societies have announced better terms, or even rate rises, for savers. Improved rates on Norwich and Peterborough's Postmaster account mean that people investing the minimum £1,000 receive net interest of 7.69 per cent, or 8.1 per cent on more than £30,000. Under-16s with the National & Provincial receive 2.5 per cent extra gross interest on balances up to £250 in the society's instant access account, bringing the total to 6.6 per cent. Adults in the same account earn 4.1 per cent gross (3.08 per cent net). Scarborough has cut the minimum investment on its First Post account from £1,000 to £250.

People wishing to sell their partly-paid shares in regional electricity shares must do so by next Friday, September 4. Dealings after that date will be in the fully-paid form only. Norwich and Peterborough is offering to sell the shares for a minimum £15. Up to three other family members can sell their shares for an extra £2 apiece. The Skipton has two dealing services. The postal service costs £9, regardless of the total value of the shares. The telephone service, which is quicker, costs a minimum £15, plus a £5 "life-membership" fee for first-time users.

Motorists could lose their no-claims discount, even if they are not at fault in an accident, because of the "knock-for-knock" agreement between insurers. The AA's insurance side says motorists should have made sure their policy included a claims recovery service. "Knock-for-knock" means each insurance company pays for damage to its own customer's vehicle, no matter who was at fault.

Alliance & Leicester is offering one and two-year fixed-rate savings bonds. The one-year bond pays 7.2 per cent net interest; the two-year bond pays 6.9 per cent. The minimum deposit is £10,000.

Newbury Building Society is offering a 1 per cent interest rate discount on loans where the borrower is able to contribute £40,000 or more to the total price of the property. Smaller discounts are available on equity contributions of £20,000 or more. The discount is available on loans below 75 per cent of the purchase price and is applied for the first year after completion.

Skipton Building Society has launched a mortgage

fixed at 9.25 per cent until September 30, 1993, then 10.2 per cent for the next two years. It is only available to borrowers who take out both buildings and contents insurance through the Skipton. The facility costs £150 to first-time buyers, who may borrow up to 95 per cent of the value of the property. Existing homeowners pay £295 for a maximum 90 per cent loan.

Family Assurance, the friendly society, has introduced a new tax-exempt family bond. The bond is a ten-year, unit-linked savings plan. Friendly society legislation means savers are not allowed to save more than £18 a month, or £200 a year. There is an annual management fee of 1.95 per cent, reducing to 0.75 per cent after ten years. Half of the first two years' contributions disappear in management charges, to reappear at the end of the policy in the form of a guaranteed minimum bonus.

Aegon Life has added three categories — blindness, deafness and terminal illness — to Life Care, its critical illness plan. Life Care is a unit-linked, whole life contract for people between 18 and 59. Minimum premiums are £20 a month, or £200 a year. The maximum benefit is £250,000.

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Skipton Building Society has launched a mortgage

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at rate	Min/max investment	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c:	2.63	2.66	2.12	none/none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Barclays	6.98	6.98	5.58	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-626 1567
Local Branch	7.22	7.22	5.78	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-626 1567
Lloyds	6.00	6.00	4.07	2,500-no max	1 mth Local Branch
Midland	6.94	6.94	5.35	2,500-no max	8 mth 0742 528655
Midland	6.99	6.99	5.51	10,000-no max	1 mth 0742 528655
NatWest	7.27	7.27	5.82	10,000-no max	3 mth 0742 528655
NatWest	8.59	8.59	5.25	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-726 1000
NatWest	6.94	6.94	5.35	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland	6.49	6.49	5.34	2,500	none 031-442 7777
Barclays	5.78	5.91	4.75	2,500	none 0804 252881
Co-operative	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 071 626 6543
Girobank	4.88	4.88	3.80	1,000	none 051 966 2076
Lloyds	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none 0272 433372
Midland	3.88	3.92	3.14	2,000	none 0742 528655
NatWest	3.84	4.00	3.20	500	none 0800 200 400
Special Reserve	4.50	4.56	3.86	2,000	none 051-566 8555
Scottish	4.31	4.31	3.48	2,000	none 071-500 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share A/c	2.70	2.08	1.82	1+	none
Best buy — largest socs:					
Barclays	7.30	7.30	5.75	100 min	Postal
Barclays	8.18	8.18	6.54	25,000 min	Postal
Barclays	7.38	7.38	6.05	40,000 min	30 day
Barclays	8.05	8.05	6.45	50,000 min	30 day
Barclays	7.88	7.88	6.30	50,000 min	1 year
Best buy — all socs:					
The Skipton	7.50	7.50	6.00	250 min	Postal
Norwich	7.58	7.58	6.06	40,000 min	30 day
St Pancras	8.05	8.05	6.45	50,000 min	60 day
National Counties	7.73	7.73	6.18	20,000 min	90 day
Furness	6.63	6.63	6.48	50,000 min	1 year
Cash/Cheque Accounts:					
Barclays	2.00	1.50	1.50	50 min	Please see
Barclays	2.44	2.44	1.95	25 min	with larger
Barclays	1.86	1.86	1.50	1 min	balances
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-648-4865
Investment A/c	8.50	8.38	5.10	5-25,000	1 mth 041-648-4865
Income Bond	9.25	8.94	5.85	1,000-250,000	8 mth 0233 66151
First Opt Bond	7.75	7.75	6.20	1,000-250,000	041-648-4865
3rd Income Cert	8.00	8.00	6.00	25-7,500	8 day 081-386 4900
Yearly Plan	8.00	8.00	6.00	50-400/min	14 day 081-386 4900
Children's Bond	10.90	10.90	10.80	10-100	8 day 041-648-4865
Govt Ed Rate	5.01	5.01	5.01		
Capital Bond	10.75	10.75	8.08	100-100,000	8 days 041-648-4865
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Alco	8.70	8.70	7.40	10,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Financial Age	8.20	8.20	6.97	5,000 min	2 yrs Chemo de
Laurelston Life	8.50	8.50	7.25	50,000 min	3 yrs Vero
Angon Life	8.55	8.55	7.27	50,000 min	4 yrs 071 404 5788
Laurelston Life	8.55	8.55	7.25	50,000 min	5 yrs for details
HOLIDAY RATES					
RPI (July 01-02)	+5.7%				£ Days
Bank Rate	10%				175.50
Prime Rate	8.5%				6.24
Bank of England	18.5-32%				033.00
Bank of France					2082.00

Ombudsman attacks failure to explain schemes clearly

FAILURES of administration and poor communications were blamed this week for thousands of complaints about pension scheme administrators and trustees (Liz Dolan writes).

Presenting his first annual report, Michael Platt, the pensions ombudsman, said scheme managers should make more effort both to explain the system to members and to keep them informed about the likelihood of delays when dealing with their problems.

They should do everything possible to "get it right and get it on time". In the event of a delay, "a phone call or letter can work wonders". He added that transfer values from final-salary schemes were "notoriously misunderstood" and the pensions industry had to explain them better. In particular, he would welcome a standard warning on transfer quotations that the figure shown would hold only for a specified period.

The ombudsman deals only with complaints that the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service has been unable to resolve satisfactorily. Of more than 6,000 complaints OPAS received in the year to March



Platt: first annual report

31, fewer than 50 were passed on to Mr Platt.

Don Hall, the service's chief executive, is therefore well placed to back Mr Platt's views. He said: "I have never seen an explanation booklet for employees that tells them exactly how the pension scheme works. I am sure it is not beyond the wit of the people who draft them to give some kind of simple explanation."

He said most complaints stemmed from misunderstanding how systems worked,

from miscalculations of transfer values, or from delays in calculating such values or passing them on to new schemes.

The number and complexity of different schemes added to members' and administrators' difficulties, Mr Hall added. When, for instance, a member left one scheme to join another, it might involve separate input from two consultants, two pensions managers and two insurance companies before a transfer value could be worked out and paid across.

"The trouble is, the whole thing has got so complicated, it would now be extremely difficult to simplify, but I hope we can find a way of doing so."

The recession has brought fresh problems. Scheme members can wait years, for instance, to find out what has happened to pension funds after employers go bust. "When a liquidator is appointed," Mr Platt said, "he frequently finds a muddle, with contributions to the scheme unpaid and records fragmentary or missing. Some liquidators give the pension scheme low priority."

Now that many companies are short of cash, pension fund administration tends to be carried out by people who have many other jobs to do, especially in smaller companies. This, again, can cause delays and misunderstandings.

However, other delays investigated by both the advisory service and the ombudsman were due simply to maladministration.

Last year, the newly established Pensions Tracing Registry said that, when asked to supply information about schemes for the registry's database, only 20 per cent of administrators managed to fill in the forms correctly.

"Once we explained exactly what we wanted," the registry said, "things improved considerably. We already have an 85 per cent success rate in tracing benefits."

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			%	%				%	%
PROFLIC UNIT TRUST					Income Growth	71.52	72.00	2.08	2.08
Weekend Pk 23 Wednesday					Japan Economy	90.25	92.18	1.28	0.75
12/10/81 12.50 12.50 1.40 1.50					Charmian Gdn	61.32	62.37	1.35	1.41
12/10/81 12.50 12.50 1.40 1.50					Spec. Income	61.32	62.37	1.35	1.41
12/10/81 12.50 12.50 1.40 1.50					Special Opps	61.32	62.37	1.35	1.41
12/10/81 12.50 12.50 1.40 1.50					Wid. Spec. Inv.	30.23	32.71	0.12	0.12
12/10/81 12.50 12.50 1.40 1.50					div-acc				
PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST									
12/10/81 12.50 12.50 1.40 1.50					STANDARD LIFE TRUST				
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European GPs	11,052.9	10,800.0	10,500.0	10,200.0	9,900.0	9,600.0	9,300.0	9,000.0	8,700.0	8,400.0	8,100.0	7,800.0	7,500.0	7,200.0	6,900.0	6,600.0	6,300.0	6,000.0	5,700.0	5,400.0	5,100.0	4,800.0	4,500.0	4,200.0	3,900.0	3,600.0	3,300.0	3,000.0	2,700.0	2,400.0	2,100.0	1,800.0	1,500.0	1,200.0	900.0	600.0	300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.
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SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS			
19 St Andrew St, Edinburgh.			
<p> UK Equity 268.10 2.00 4.13 American 182.50 172.80 1.13 Europe 182.50 172.80 1.13 Worldwide 268.10 270.20 2.10 Balanced 182.50 62.20 0.70 1.40 </p>			
<p> SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENT MANAGERS 19 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5JN. 041 246 6100 </p>			
<p> UK Equity 227.00 257.30 3.00 3.01 US Equity 148.00 150.30 2.30 0.81 European 148.00 150.30 2.30 0.81 Worldwide 227.00 257.30 3.00 3.01 Pension Equity 16.70 16.70 0.00 0.10 </p>			
<p> UNITED-NAC 75.00 75.00 0.00 0.00 UNITED CHARITIES UNIT TRUST 100 St Andrew St, 223 Ranelagh Rd, London E7. 081 234 5546 UK Equity 170.00 182.30 1.30 5.79 </p>			
<p> WAVELIFE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 11 Charlotte St, Edinburgh EH2 4JL 041 225 1515 </p>			
<p> UK Equity 8.11 8.42 0.26 0.30 American 23.02 24.68 1.69 0.60 European 25.50 27.12 1.62 0.20 Worldwide 29.00 30.00 1.00 0.30 Pension Equity 16.70 16.70 0.00 0.10 </p>			

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American Oil	49.48	52.81	1.06	...
Basic Spec. Steel	73.67	74.00	0.33	...
<40-AEC	32.48	32.73	0.43	...
For Part Crops	16.31	16.38	0.10	...
<40-AEC	16.97	17.00	0.03	...
General Growth	73.04	80.87	3.24	3.68
Global Tech	73.97	76.77	1.15	...

Source: Finance

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price ... No significant data.

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 92.0 (day's range 92.0-92.1).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Market Places for Aug 28	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1367-3.1558	3.1367-3.1523		
Banque	1.50-1.57.69		40p-40p	13-13p
Bombay	10.77-10.78.20	10.77-10.78.20	10.77-10.78.20	2-2 1/2p
Canton	1.0535-1.0563	1.0535-1.0563		2-2 1/2p
Colon	2.7849-2.7898	2.7849-2.7884		5-5p
Frankfurt	180.85-191.64	180.85-191.64	47-170d	145-502d
London	180.85-191.64	180.85-191.64	47-170d	145-502d
Madrid	212.20-214.20	212.90-213.00	9-12p	27-31d
Manila	212.20-214.20	212.90-213.00	9-12p	27-31d
San Francisco	1.981-2.000	2.000-2.027	1-10p	2.32-2.23p
New York	1.981-2.000	2.000-2.027	1-10p	2.32-2.23p

Osaka	1.0240-1.0680	1.0330-1.0500	1w-25c	1w-1m
London	1.0340-1.0360	1.0490-1.0510	1w-25c	3 1/2w-1m
Stockholm	1.0180-1.0210	1.0300-1.0320	1w-25c	3 1/2w-1m
Tokyo	244.55-244.76	244.52-244.76	1w-1m	4w-3m
Vladivostok	16.55-16.70	16.55-16.65	1w-1m	4w-3m
Zurich	2.4897-2.4993	2.4897-2.4930	1w-1m	1w-1m
Source: Esaki				

Premium + pr Discount - ds

OTHER STERLING		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina peso	1.0616-1.0647	Australia	1.2621-1.3023
Australian dollar	0.7430-0.7530	Austria	9.85-9.90
Bahrain dinar	0.7430-0.752	Belgium (Com)	20.25-20.35

China	¥100	¥100.00	China	¥100	¥100.00
China (excl. HK)	¥100	¥100.00	Canada	¥100	¥100.00
China (incl. HK)	¥100	¥100.00	Canada (excl. HK)	¥100	¥100.00
France	FF100	FF100.00	France	FF100	FF100.00
France (excl. HK)	FF100	FF100.00	France (excl. HK)	FF100	FF100.00
France (incl. HK)	FF100	FF100.00	France (incl. HK)	FF100	FF100.00
Germany	DM100	DM100.00	Germany	DM100	DM100.00
Germany (excl. HK)	DM100	DM100.00	Germany (excl. HK)	DM100	DM100.00
Germany (incl. HK)	DM100	DM100.00	Germany (incl. HK)	DM100	DM100.00
Hong Kong	HK\$100	HK\$100.00	Hong Kong	HK\$100	HK\$100.00
Hong Kong (excl. HK)	HK\$100	HK\$100.00	Hong Kong (excl. HK)	HK\$100	HK\$100.00
Hong Kong (incl. HK)	HK\$100	HK\$100.00	Hong Kong (incl. HK)	HK\$100	HK\$100.00
India	₹100	₹100.00	India	₹100	₹100.00
India (excl. HK)	₹100	₹100.00	India (excl. HK)	₹100	₹100.00
India (incl. HK)	₹100	₹100.00	India (incl. HK)	₹100	₹100.00
Japan	¥100	¥100.00	Japan	¥100	¥100.00
Japan (excl. HK)	¥100	¥100.00	Japan (excl. HK)	¥100	¥100.00
Japan (incl. HK)	¥100	¥100.00	Japan (incl. HK)	¥100	¥100.00
Malaysia	RM100	RM100.00	Malaysia	RM100	RM100.00
Malaysia (excl. HK)	RM100	RM100.00	Malaysia (excl. HK)	RM100	RM100.00
Malaysia (incl. HK)	RM100	RM100.00	Malaysia (incl. HK)	RM100	RM100.00
New Zealand	NZ\$100	NZ\$100.00	New Zealand	NZ\$100	NZ\$100.00
New Zealand (excl. HK)	NZ\$100	NZ\$100.00	New Zealand (excl. HK)	NZ\$100	NZ\$100.00
New Zealand (incl. HK)	NZ\$100	NZ\$100.00	New Zealand (incl. HK)	NZ\$100	NZ\$100.00
Saudi Arabia	SR100	SR100.00	Saudi Arabia	SR100	SR100.00
Saudi Arabia (excl. HK)	SR100	SR100.00	Saudi Arabia (excl. HK)	SR100	SR100.00
Saudi Arabia (incl. HK)	SR100	SR100.00	Saudi Arabia (incl. HK)	SR100	SR100.00
Singapore	S\$100	S\$100.00	Singapore	S\$100	S\$100.00
Singapore (excl. HK)	S\$100	S\$100.00	Singapore (excl. HK)	S\$100	S\$100.00
Singapore (incl. HK)	S\$100	S\$100.00	Singapore (incl. HK)	S\$100	S\$100.00
Taiwan	NT\$100	NT\$100.00	Taiwan	NT\$100	NT\$100.00
Taiwan (excl. HK)	NT\$100	NT\$100.00	Taiwan (excl. HK)	NT\$100	NT\$100.00
Taiwan (incl. HK)	NT\$100	NT\$100.00	Taiwan (incl. HK)	NT\$100	NT\$100.00
Thailand	฿100	฿100.00	Thailand	฿100	฿100.00
Thailand (excl. HK)	฿100	฿100.00	Thailand (excl. HK)	฿100	฿100.00
Thailand (incl. HK)	฿100	฿100.00	Thailand (incl. HK)	฿100	฿100.00
UK	£100	£100.00	UK	£100	£100.00
UK (excl. HK)	£100	£100.00	UK (excl. HK)	£100	£100.00
UK (incl. HK)	£100	£100.00	UK (incl. HK)	£100	£100.00
USA	\$100	\$100.00	USA	\$100	\$100.00
USA (excl. HK)	\$100	\$100.00	USA (excl. HK)	\$100	\$100.00
USA (incl. HK)	\$100	\$100.00	USA (incl. HK)	\$100	\$100.00

London	2.7375-2.7325	Sweden	5.1590-5.1580
Frankfurt	2.7375-2.7325	Switzerland	1.2565-1.2575
Barclays Bank OTS • Loyds Bank			

MONEY RATES (10)

Best Rates: Clearing Banks 10 Finance Hse 10₂ Low 8₂ Week Three: 9₂
 Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 10₂
 Treasury Bills (Display): 2 mth 10 3 mth 10. self: 2 mth 9₂ 3 mth: 9₂

Prime Bank Bills (Dist):	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Selling Money Rates:	9 ₂ -9 ₂	9 ₂ -9 ₂	10 ₂ -9 ₂	10 ₂ -10	10 ₂ -10
Interbank:	10 ₂ -10	10 ₂ -10	10 ₂ -10	10 ₂ -10	10 ₂ -10

Overnight open % close	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Local Authority Debt	10%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sterling CDs	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Dollar CDs	3.33-3.28	n/a	3.36-3.29	3.45-3.41	3.62-3.59
Building Society CDs	10%-10	10%	10%	10%	10%-10

ECGD: fixed rate Sterling Export Finance. Males up to August 28, 1992 Agreed Rates Sept 2, 1992 to Aug 31, 1992 Scheme I: 1.38%. Schemes II & III: 1.85%. Reference Rate August 1, 1992 to August 28, 1992 Scheme IV & V: 10.37%.

EUROPEAN MONEY

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS (%)					
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	3-1/2	3-3/4	3-3/4	3-3/4	3-1/2
Swiss Franc	9-1/2	9-9/16	9-9/16	9-9/16	9-8/16
Swiss Franc	10-1/2	10-10/16	10-10/16	10-10/16	10-10/16
Swiss Franc	7-7/8	7-7/8	7-7/8	7-7/8	7-7/8
Yen	4-1/4	4-1/4	4-1/4	4-1/4	4-1/4

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co.)			
Bullion:	Open \$349.10-\$40.70	Close \$339.80-\$40.30	High \$341.80-\$42.10
Low:	\$338.50-\$39.80		

Angerzone: 939.00-941.00 (\$171.00-172.00)

Shares close steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on August 24. Dealings end September 3. Contango date September 7. Settlement date September 14. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is re-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check it against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches the figure you have won right money or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Abbey UK	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
2	Bank of Scotland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
3	Bank of Ireland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
4	Bank of Wales	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
5	Bank of Cyprus	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
6	Bank of Greece	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
7	Bank of Spain	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
8	Bank of Portugal	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
9	Bank of France	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
10	Bank of Italy	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
11	Bank of Germany	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
12	Bank of Netherlands	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
13	Bank of Belgium	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
14	Bank of Luxembourg	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
15	Bank of Austria	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
16	Bank of Switzerland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
17	Bank of Denmark	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
18	Bank of Norway	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
19	Bank of Sweden	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
20	Bank of Finland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
21	Bank of Iceland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
22	Bank of Ireland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
23	Bank of Wales	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
24	Bank of Cyprus	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
25	Bank of Greece	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
26	Bank of Spain	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
27	Bank of Portugal	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
28	Bank of France	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
29	Bank of Italy	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
30	Bank of Germany	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
31	Bank of Netherlands	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
32	Bank of Belgium	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
33	Bank of Luxembourg	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
34	Bank of Austria	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
35	Bank of Switzerland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
36	Bank of Denmark	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
37	Bank of Norway	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
38	Bank of Sweden	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
39	Bank of Finland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
40	Bank of Iceland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
41	Bank of Ireland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
42	Bank of Wales	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
43	Bank of Cyprus	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
44	Bank of Greece	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
45	Bank of Spain	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
46	Bank of Portugal	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
47	Bank of France	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
48	Bank of Italy	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
49	Bank of Germany	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
50	Bank of Netherlands	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
51	Bank of Belgium	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
52	Bank of Luxembourg	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
53	Bank of Austria	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
54	Bank of Switzerland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
55	Bank of Denmark	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
56	Bank of Norway	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
57	Bank of Sweden	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
58	Bank of Finland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
59	Bank of Iceland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
60	Bank of Ireland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
61	Bank of Wales	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
62	Bank of Cyprus	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
63	Bank of Greece	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
64	Bank of Spain	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
65	Bank of Portugal	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
66	Bank of France	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
67	Bank of Italy	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
68	Bank of Germany	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
69	Bank of Netherlands	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
70	Bank of Belgium	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
71	Bank of Luxembourg	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
72	Bank of Austria	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
73	Bank of Switzerland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
74	Bank of Denmark	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
75	Bank of Norway	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
76	Bank of Sweden	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
77	Bank of Finland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
78	Bank of Iceland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
79	Bank of Ireland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
80	Bank of Wales	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
81	Bank of Cyprus	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
82	Bank of Greece	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
83	Bank of Spain	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
84	Bank of Portugal	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
85	Bank of France	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
86	Bank of Italy	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
87	Bank of Germany	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
88	Bank of Netherlands	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
89	Bank of Belgium	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
90	Bank of Luxembourg	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
91	Bank of Austria	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
92	Bank of Switzerland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
93	Bank of Denmark	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
94	Bank of Norway	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
95	Bank of Sweden	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
96	Bank of Finland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
97	Bank of Iceland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
98	Bank of Ireland	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
99	Bank of Wales	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0
100	Bank of Cyprus	Banking	10.50	0.10	0.95	11.0

High Low Company Price Div Yield P/E

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
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Talented Selkirk set for rich consolation prize

SELKIRK is unquestionably the form horse for the group two Beefeater Gin Celebration Mile at Goodwood today.

Following that narrow defeat at the hands of Marling in the Sussex Stakes over today's course and distance late last month, I expect the Ian Balding-trained four-year-old to pick up this consolation prize that he so richly deserves.

After a bad run at Longchamp, where there were valid excuses, that effort in the Sussex Stakes portrayed Selkirk at his best.

It was no disgrace to be beaten a head by a filly of the calibre of Marling, who had earlier won the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Irish 1,000 Guineas after looking unlikely not to win our Guineas.

Just how good that form was can be gleaned by knowing that horses of the class of Second Set, Sheikh Albadou and Sikeston were right behind Selkirk in third, fourth and fifth place that day.

Rudimentary, who finished only seventh on that occasion, repossesses Selkirk now but with no apparent chance of victory since he was also beaten four-and-a-half lengths in third place behind my selection in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury in May.

Mystiko, who was even fur-

ing, who can also saddle Lt Welsh to win the Solent Maiden Stakes.

Lt Welsh was a promising third on his debut in the race won by that clearly talented colt Tenby over today's course and distance five weeks ago. Now he is preferred to Wootton Rivers, Ecu De France and Hostile Witness.

Today's meeting on the Sussex track begins with the March Stakes for which two St Leger acceptors, Rain Rider and Allegan, have been declared.

The last time that these two met was at Kempton in the

spring when Allegan beat Rain Rider by ten lengths. In the meantime Rain Rider has won all his races; his most notable scalp being the subsequent Gordon and Great Voltaire Stakes winner Bonny Scot at Newmarket.

Following a setback in training, Allegan is said to have been working well at Newmarket during his preparation for today's listed race, and he is preferred to his rival now that he will be receiving 4lb from him.

Laughed, my choice for the Sport On 5 Handicap, will enjoy being able to get his

in the ground again. At Newmarket, I give the Luca Cumani-trained Inner City a good chance of winning the Danepak Bacon Handicap even under top weight.

It was by only a neck and the same that he was beaten by Sharptail and Allora in the Scottish Classic at Ayr last time out and that form has held up well since with the first and second running well at Deauville and York respectively.

Today's nap though is Wainwright to account for

Talb in the Stanley House Maiden Stakes at Newmarket following a particularly prom-

ising piece of work at home with his talented stable companion Pollen Count.

Balding: double chance

NEWCASTLE

MANDARIN

2.20 Whitley Gorse, 2.50 Jaimouque, 3.25

Charolles, 4.00 Touch Above, 4.30 Melotte, 5.00

Chiqueros.

THUNDERER

2.20 Bangles, 2.50 High Low, 3.25 Charolles, 4.00

Nicely Thanks, 4.30 Knock To Enter, 5.00 Super

Summit.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 ARMADA NURSERY HANDICAP

(2-Y-O: £5,344.50) (12 runners)

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Pakistanis put on a carefree face

By PETER BALL

WHILE Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis claimed vindication and consulted their lawyers, and the storm over the condition of the ball used in the one-day international at Lord's blew itself out in a cloud of obfuscation, the rest of the Pakistani team casually whiled away the last hours of their last match at Scarborough apparently without a care in the world. If they were a team under siege, they gave little indication of it.

Neither was there much evidence that anyone was giving much thought to the cricket. Shoaib, the Pakistanis' fifth-choice captain, and Richie Richardson, the World XI captain, made no attempt to prevent the match meandering to a draw.

A small festival crowd

seemed unconcerned, enjoying the fireworks from Peter Sleep and cameos from Phil Simmons and Roger Harper as the Pakistanis used ten bowlers. Only some excited appealing revealed that the team was present in spirit as well as body, but there was no suggestion that their minds were on weightier matters.

"The boys aren't even aware of what's going on," Intikhab Alam, the team manager, said when the news of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision was relayed to him. "They're not interested in what's happening because they know they have done nothing wrong."

Even the failure of the ICC to clear the Pakistanis of the charge of altering the ball by saying it was done under law 5, which the tour manager, Khalid Mahmood, had de-

manded at the beginning of the week, did nothing to shake their composure. "I have no doubt in my mind that we are not the guilty party at all," Intikhab said.

"The ball was changed, and that's it. I still believe it was changed under law 5. I can assure you we haven't done anything. I am very confident and very proud of these boys."

"These accusations have been going on for some time now, but it is just sour grapes. Wasim and Waqar are not just ordinary bowlers, and to take something away from them is very unfair."

That line was taken up by Agha, the only one of the three Test seam bowlers, playing yesterday. After a short spell under scudding clouds in the morning, Agha came off and changed before adding his words of support to his bow-

ling colleagues. "I've shared the same ball all summer, and if their success has been down to the ball, why haven't I produced the same results? I'm not as fast as they are, but I am very accurate, so if I had their degree of swing I'd be lethal. But I haven't," he said.

"The only answer is that I'm not in the same class. Their wickets are solely down to ability. If people say it is down to the ball rather than the bowler, I'd like to put that to the test. Scuff it up in the way we are supposed to have done and give it to Devon. Malcolm, and I'll bet £1,000 he doesn't get anything like the same result as Wasim and Waqar have done."

Pakistan depart this morning for a one-day game in Amsterdam before going their separate ways at the beginning of next week.



Agha lends support

Ball examination 'revealed evidence of tampering'

By SIMON WILDE

ONE man, it transpired yesterday, has managed to penetrate the cloak of secrecy that has surrounded the allegations of Pakistani ball-tampering during this summer's Test series.

Last month, during the fourth Test match at Headingley, Richard Hutton, the former England all-rounder, asked to see — and was shown by one of the umpires — the ball with which Waqar Younis destroyed the England batting with a spell of five wickets for 18 in eight overs on the third day.

"On examination," Hutton said, "the ball contained countless small abrasions, where the outer skin had disappeared, alongside the

seam on one side. The overall roughness contrasted sharply with the smoothness of the conventionally polished other half of the ball. In my opinion, the damage had been caused by a fingernail. It was not attributable to constant friction on the ground or with the boundary fence."

England unexpectedly collapsed in their first innings from 292 for two to 320 all out, losing their last eight wickets in 16 overs. Before his five-wicket spell, Waqar had figures of eight for 99 from 22 overs. When England batted again, chasing 99 to win, Pakistan opted to continue using the fingermarked ball, which was 114 overs old. Waqar, who is normally first

change, opened the bowling with Wasim Akram and took two early wickets, but England went on to win the match by six wickets.

Hutton, the editor of *The Cricketer* magazine, declined to say which of the umpires, Mervyn Kitchen and Ken Palmer, allowed him to see the ball. He said that he wanted to photograph the ball but was refused permission by the official.

Hutton said his suspicions had been aroused during the series by "idle chat with umpires and others in authority in the game". He added: "A ball that swings more and more as it gets older and older is acting against the laws of nature."

Taylor makes short work of Middlesex resistance

By IVO TENNANT

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire (22pts) beat Middlesex (4) by an innings and three runs

IT TOOK Northamptonshire effectively one-and-a-half days of a scheduled four-day match to beat Middlesex by an innings, a victory that takes them into second place in the championship table. They achieved this through Paul Taylor taking ten for 54 in the match, the best figures of his career. There was some cross-batting, but this was markedly hostile bowling.

Taylor is 28 and in only his second season with Northamptonshire, after two unfruitful years with Derbyshire and some Minor Counties cricket. His age might preclude him from selection for an England A tour, but not his ability. His five wickets yesterday were taken in one spell of telling left-arm medium pace.

For all that, there was no greater applause all day than when Lamb came in to bat. Northamptonshire's members emphasised with him. For every Pakistani who has rung the club in the last two days, there has been a message of support. Graffid is now an art form in Northampton. The secretariat, one needs hardly add, have had their fill of it.

Lamb's innings was a curiously muted affair, lasting 64 minutes and producing 13 runs, even if he did have his mind on other concerns. So, seemingly, did the rest of the middle order. Having been 137 for one, Northamptonshire mustered no more than 203, Williams taking five wickets for eight runs in 29 balls.

Given that Middlesex batted with still less distinction, this scarcely mattered. Yet Fordham and Cook deserved

better. Their partnership of 101 in 31 overs was richer than anything that followed, although it hardly seemed so at the time. Or perhaps it was merely that Lamb was the focus of greater attention.

Fordham's innings of 91 was far and away the best of the match. At times he could pass for Geoff Cook, his worthy predecessor, in the way in which he works the ball around the wicket. There was nothing showy about his batting, but it was sufficiently compact to take him past 1,500 runs for the season.

Northamptonshire, then, had a first innings lead of 118. There was no account reason for their collapse, just as there was not for that of Middlesex. This had much more to do with Taylor's maintenance of an excellent line and ability to alternate in an in-swing with his natural slant across the batsman than to anything in the pitch.

There was no linking of what was to come as Roseberry and Haynes put on 24 for the first wicket. The former went through edging one that left him and Giffing, having survived a pair, was leg-before offering no shot at Capel. It was an acute reminder of his affliction of late in Test cricket.

Haynes and Carr also went leg-before to Taylor, one choosing the wrong line and the other beaten on the back foot by another in-swing. Brown went flicking at one down the leg side and Embury was bowled looking to play one of his unique squeaky cover drives.

Rampershad, having had his off ball clipped by Capel, Middlesex were, almost unbelievably, 36 for seven. There was no way back from that.

Kent put themselves in strong position

By RICHARD STREETON

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Gloucestershire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 304 runs to beat Kent

GLoucestershire were left to make 398 yesterday to win this match, and though the pitch remains friendly, Kent have surely put themselves beyond defeat. By winning this match and their final two fixtures, they could still take second place in Essex in the championship and earn £23,000 prize-money.

There were 48 overs left when Gloucestershire set out on their marathon climb, and disciplined batting by Hodgson and Scott established the only pattern open to them. The score was 51 before Hodgson hit the first four of the innings. Soon afterwards he risked a sweep against Davis and was caught at short backward square-leg. Alleyne dropped anchor with Scott before bad light brought the close ten hours early.

Kent, resuming at 164 for three, stretched their innings until half past three with nearly everyone helping to put the match beyond Gloucestershire's reach. Hooper, Fleming and Marsh led the way with contrasting half-centuries on a slow pitch from which all assistance for the bowlers had

virtually gone. Even Walsh had his bowling teeth drawn by the conditions, though he finished with four wickets to give him nine for 119 in the match. He has now taken 84 at 16.05 apiece in his benefit season.

Vaughan was the best of the other bowlers, but Davies varied his trajectory cleverly and bowled more efficiently than his figures suggest.

Hooper played the most classical strokes of the leading three Kent scores, while Fleming struck the ball the most forcefully. Marsh's batting, arguably, had the most character about it. He began carefully at a time when Gloucestershire were just about still in the game, but he went on to cut loose once the coffin lid was nailed down.

Gloucestershire spirits must have briefly perked up with two early wickets. Davis showed more ambition than most nightwatchmen by attempting to hook Walsh and skied a catch to Russell. In Walsh's next over he had Cowdrey leg-before. From the start Hooper had driven, hooked and late-cut everybody in turn with perfect timing. A memorable innings in embryo, though, was cut short when he stretched forward to Scott and was adjudged leg-before.



Launching pad: Pringle dispatches the ball square on the way to a fine century for Essex at Hove yesterday

Pringle furthers Essex's cause

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HOVE (third day of four): Sussex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 164 runs behind Essex

RAIN has pillaged the equivalent of a day's play from this match but it remains intriguingly alive. Essex, who spread their first innings over three days, have to thank centuries from Jonathan Lewis and Derek Pringle for a lead of 201 and no matter what happens at Canterbury, they can secure the title on bonus points alone if they finish off Sussex today.

No county side is more familiar than Essex with the art of putting trophies in the cabinet but there is a sense of wonderment in the camp that they stand on the brink of another championship after a summer in which they have seldom been able to put their best side in the field or, in

follows, play their most convincing cricket.

Take yesterday. Having included an extra bowler and then lost one of their five specialist batsmen, Hussain, with his second broken finger of the season, Essex were not as happily placed as their overnight 195 for two suggested. Indeed, when Stephenson's first and liveliest burst of the day reduced them to 209 for four, effectively five, Sussex would have fancied they were back in the match.

Pringle, attempting to drive on the up, was well caught by Speight, low down at point, and Garmham was leg-before to what, these days, is a rare sighting of the slow, looping yorker with which Stephenson claimed so many wickets for Nottinghamshire.

Enter Pringle, the last man in the side with any pretensions to batting. He has it in

him to belie this, of course, and for a time against the luckless Salisbury, he did so. But gradually, in company with the correct and resolute Lewis, Pringle asserted himself, even smiling two gates as he carried the Essex lead from merely useful to intimidating.

Lewis had spent 20 minutes on 91 and went into lunch still a nervy five short of a first century since his debut two years ago. He got there, in four-and-a-half hours, with a square cut four against Stephenson. He proceeded, in low gear but with no sign of stalling, to 133.

He was out in what had long since seemed the only way he might go: run out. Pringle refused a second to long leg and Lenham's return was gathered by Moores, who threw down the stumps at the bowler's end. They had put on 105 from 30 overs.

When Topley swatted to square leg and Lenham's opening over had flitted before, Essex looked on the point of expiring. Instead, there was the improbable sight of 12 overs bating by Such, whose 20 was only seven short of his career-best.

Such was eventually stumped off Salisbury, who did an ironical jig to salute his first wicket in his 42nd over. He will bowl a lot worse than this and take five, and his lot was epitomised when he bowled Pringle with a no-ball.

By then, however, Pringle had reached 100, his second of the season and tenth of his career. In recent weeks he has played more than one critical innings for Essex, who will now look to their spin bowlers to complete victory today. Childs gave them a start by removing Hall three overs from last night's dose.

Derbyshire v Somerset

Derbyshire (third day of four): Somerset won 236 for nine wickets against Derbyshire

Derbyshire (third day of four): Somerset won 236 for nine wickets against Derbyshire. Somerset's first innings: 236 (100 overs). Derbyshire's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Kent v Gloucestershire

Kent (third day of four): Gloucestershire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 304 runs to beat Kent

Gloucestershire were left to make 398 yesterday to win this match, and though the pitch remains friendly, Kent have surely put themselves beyond defeat. By winning this match and their final two fixtures, they could still take second place in Essex in the championship and earn £23,000 prize-money.

Warwickshire v Glamorgan

Warwickshire (third day of four): Glamorgan won 225 for five wickets against Warwickshire

Warwickshire (third day of four): Glamorgan won 225 for five wickets against Warwickshire. Warwickshire's first innings: 225 (100 overs). Glamorgan's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire

Worcestershire (third day of four): Nottinghamshire won 225 for five wickets against Worcestershire

Nottinghamshire (third day of four): Worcestershire won 225 for five wickets against Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire's first innings: 225 (100 overs). Worcestershire's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Sussex v Essex

Sussex (third day of four): Essex won 195 for two wickets against Sussex

Essex (third day of four): Sussex won 195 for two wickets against Essex. Essex's first innings: 195 (100 overs). Sussex's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Lancashire v Yorkshire

Lancashire (third day of four): Yorkshire won 225 for five wickets against Lancashire

Yorkshire (third day of four): Lancashire won 225 for five wickets against Yorkshire. Yorkshire's first innings: 225 (100 overs). Lancashire's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Northants v Middlesex

Northamptonshire (third day of four): Middlesex won 225 for five wickets against Northamptonshire

Middlesex (third day of four): Northamptonshire won 225 for five wickets against Middlesex. Middlesex's first innings: 225 (100 overs). Northamptonshire's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Gloucestershire v Kent

Gloucestershire (third day of four): Kent won 225 for five wickets against Gloucestershire

Kent (third day of four): Gloucestershire won 225 for five wickets against Kent. Kent's first innings: 225 (100 overs). Gloucestershire's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Essex v Gloucestershire

Essex (third day of four): Gloucestershire won 225 for five wickets against Essex

Gloucestershire (third day of four): Essex won 225 for five wickets against Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire's first innings: 225 (100 overs). Essex's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Derbyshire v Somerset

Derbyshire (third day of four): Somerset won 236 for nine wickets against Derbyshire

Somerset (third day of four): Derbyshire won 236 for nine wickets against Somerset. Somerset's first innings: 236 (100 overs). Derbyshire's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

England U-19 v Sri Lanka U-19

England U-19 (third day of four): Sri Lanka U-19 won 225 for five wickets against England U-19

Sri Lanka U-19 (third day of four): England U-19 won 225 for five wickets against Sri Lanka U-19. Sri Lanka U-19's first innings: 225 (100 overs). England U-19's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

World XI v Pakistanis

World XI (third day of four): Pakistanis won 225 for five wickets against World XI

Pakistanis (third day of four): World XI won 225 for five wickets against Pakistanis. Pakistanis' first innings: 225 (100 overs). World XI's first innings: 100 (40 overs).

Sunday is football day on television

ITV answers rivals with £40m deal for live league games

By CLIVE WHITE

ON TOP of BSkyB's saturation coverage of the Premier League, not to mention Channel 4's televising of Italian football, came news yesterday of up to a further 70 live Sunday matches to be screened this season as part of a potential £40 million four-year deal between the Football League and ITV.

The agreement is ITV's answer to losing out in its bid for exclusive rights to the Premier League, which BSkyB won with a bid of £304 million to show 60 matches a season over five years. It means that on many Sundays, viewers will have a choice of three live games.

Channel 4 kicks off its Italian league programme on September 6 with Sampdoria versus Lazio, the new clubs of Des Walker and Paul Gas-

coigne, respectively. Many of the ITV games will be on a regional basis, but included in its nationwide coverage will be the four-team Coca-Cola Cup semi-final games and the first division play-off final at Wembley on May 31.

"Now we can look forward to free, live exclusive football showing talents of clubs from all parts of the country," Trevor East, the head of ITV sports, said.

The deal with the League had to be renegotiated because the clubs were unhappy about ITV being allowed unlimited access and wide regional variations in payments.

Now there will be a capping system for individual clubs' appearances, with ITV paying up to £100,000 a match on top of the basic £25 million which

the League is to receive.

Newcastle United and Sunderland, for example, would have shared just £8,000 from Tyne Tees had they featured, while clubs in the Midlands and London were entitled to £30,000 between them from their local network. That was unacceptable and it was the job of Lee Walker, the League's television controller, to work out a new formula.

Clubs will share £60,000 — £48,000 to the home club and £12,000 to the visitors — for their first four live matches covered by more than one region. The fifth game will be worth £80,000 — the level of payment determined by the home side's appearance record.

ITV will increase the payment to six figures for four matches they plan to show on a nationwide basis after the transfer deadline, when the promotion issue reaches its climax. The deal still allows ITV regions to have sole coverage of matches in their area.

London Weekend will have to pay £30,000 to show West Ham's game against Derby County on September 20, but the next time they select a West Ham home match the fee will be £60,000.

Walker said only one club had voted against the package.

"We have gone a long way towards striking the right balance," he said. "As far as we are concerned, the fans are of paramount importance."

Wright wants to convince Taylor

By CLIVE WHITE

AS ANYONE who has been paying attention recently to their advertising boardings will know, there is no doubt in some people's mind about who has replaced Gary Lineker as the No. 1 English sharpshooter. "Gary Who?" it enquires a trifle irreverently on the poster alongside a picture of Ian Wright.

But, as anyone who has been paying attention to the England team selections will know, there is a serious doubt in the mind of the one person who matters — Graham Taylor, the England manager — as to whether the Arsenal forward is the natural successor to the country's greatest goalscorer of the past two decades. It will require a substantial climbdown by Taylor on Tuesday to include Wright in his squad for the game against Spain in Santander on September 9, having left him out of his squad of 20 for the European championship finals in Sweden during the summer.

Other than England's lamentable failure, nothing much has changed to make Taylor think any differently. Last season's Golden Boot winner, despite a niggling thigh and ankle injuries, is still scoring goals — two in two starts — as are, for that matter, Alan Shearer, David Hirst and Brian Deane, his rivals to fill Lineker's boots.

Taylor's misgivings about Wright have, quite properly, never received a public airing though it is understood that he questions the player's temperament and character and does not consider him an ideal team member.

Steve Coppell, the man who helped turn a potential "unemployment statistic" into an eminently employable £2.5 million player, would have Wright in any of his teams — but not necessarily in any of his squads.

"To be fair to Graham, Ian is not a very good substitute," the Crystal Palace manager said, even though Wright became known as "Supersub" during his first season and a half at Selhurst Park. "He's got enough confidence in his own ability that he wants to play, and if he's not playing then he's not good to have around as part of the squad."

Incidents last season at Oldham, after which he was



Gary Two? Wright is determined to show he should succeed Lineker

fined £1,500 for spitting at a spectator, and at West Ham, where he was alleged to have used abusive language towards spectators, will have done nothing to improve Wright's image in Taylor's eyes. If Taylor had been at Highbury on Wednesday he would have seen Wright reprimanded by the referee for an unprovoked attack on Neil Poynton, the Oldham full back.

Wright's behaviour during a game is not normally a problem, though he is an aggressive type of player, as noted by Mark Bright, his friend and foil at Palace. "Some people claim he has changed his style at Arsenal, but Ian has played with fire in his belly throughout his career," Bright said. "He would not be the same without the aggressive streak. There are pluses and

minuses, but it works for Ian. Take it away and you would lose him."

Constant rejections, probably starting from the time when a former school teacher told him he was destined to become an unemployment statistic, has made Wright, 29 in November, all the more determined to succeed. When Taylor informed him before Sweden that "it wasn't my time", as Wright recounted, a hurt young man took himself off to Florida to ensure that he missed the European championship in every sense.

"I always thought my goals would be enough to get me through in the end, even though people had been saying for ages that I would be the striker to be left out," Wright said.

Coppell agrees that Wright's record is his most

persuasive argument. "I might be over-simplifying things, but I just look at goals and say, 'who's scored the most? Well they're the best strikers,'" he said. "From that point of view I suppose you've got to look at Hirst and Wright."

"If you start getting involved in blends I think, sometimes, you're overlooking the obvious. If you have two strikers who score goals, presumably you've got a better chance than if you have one striker who scores and another who makes."

And what says Gary Who? "Ian does have his weaknesses; he's not particularly strong on the ball. But he has that priceless ability to help himself to goals. I'm as convinced as anyone can be that he is the man who should be my immediate successor."

CYCLING

Wallace's aim is progress to gold

FROM PETER BRYAN IN VALENCIA

SHAUN Wallace, of Britain, hopes to emulate Chris Boardman's Olympic gold-medal victory by winning the world professional 5,000 metres track pursuit here next Tuesday.

Wallace, who took silver last year when he was beaten by Francis Moreau, of France, will be riding the aerodynamic Lotus machine on which Boardman won his Olympic title last month.

He arrived in Spain on Tuesday from a training camp at Colorado Springs and had his first ride on the new 250 metres cement track the following day. With every outing since then he has felt more confident. "It's coming together now," he said.

There was a moment of concern on Thursday night when a workman fell from scaffolding onto spectators' seats, scattering debris across the track during a crowded training session. "Our helmets are normally worn as a safety measure against crashes," Wallace said. "Flying fragments of broken chairs are something different."

With final entries for the pursuit title not to be confirmed until tonight, Wallace was unable to forecast his chances on improving on last year's performance in Stuttgart.

"The arrival of the Lotus may well have made some riders decide not to turn up here," he said. "So I really don't yet know what the opposition will be."

In tomorrow's individual qualifying time-trial round, Wallace and his professional rivals will have the chance to improve on Boardman's amateur world record of 5min 38.08sec set at Leicester last weekend.

The track programme at these world championships, for which Britain has entries in the amateur tandem sprint, women's points race and the professional sprint, keirin, points race and pursuit, will be followed by the women's road time-trial next Saturday with the following day bringing the 163 miles professional road race, with Italy's Gianni Bugno defending.

BRIDGE

Women take strong lead

Salsomaggiore, Italy: Britain took a clear lead in the women's series at the World Team Olympiad when they beat the holders, Denmark, 23-7 in the 31st qualifying round yesterday (Albert Dormer writes). This followed a fine win by 25-1 over France, the previous leaders, on Thursday night.

Britain are comfortably placed in their 17-team group with 406 victory points followed by Sweden, 395, and France 378.

After three setbacks on Wednesday, Britain's open team beat Hungary and South Africa and lost 20-10 to Poland on Thursday before drawing with Canada yesterday. It lies 12th.

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

Today

Arsenal v Sheff Weds

Arsenal can expect any repetition of their second-half decline against Oldham in midweek to be dealt with more severely by Wednesday, even if they did win this fixture 7-1 last season. However, the absence of Palmer, who has been troubled by injury and illness, ought to hand midfield advantage to an Arsenal side strengthened in that department by the return of Jensen and Linper after international duty. Wright and Merson are included although not fully fit.

Chelsea v QPR

It would be typical of arguably the top division's most erratic side to be the first to spoil Queen's Park Rangers' fun. After

all, Don Howe, their coach, has inside knowledge. Chelsea without a win yet, have still to find an effective replacement for Dongo but, encouraged by the clean sheet against Blackburn Rovers, will persist with the players they have available rather than meet West Ham United's asking price of £2.2 million for Dicks. Holloway is still missing for Rangers.

Coventry v Blackburn

Could this be the beginning of Coventry City's descent now that the bubble has burst? Gynn is doubtful but Gattacher and Williams are included in the squad. Blackburn Rovers, thanks to the late miss of Hartford (Mick, that is) at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday, have yet to taste defeat this season. Wright is back in the Blackburn squad.

C Palace v Norwich

A match to test Norwich's ability to stay in the top six. With Fox out of action until the end of next month with a thigh injury the late fitness test on Robins' groin could be crucial. Bowen needs one, too. Sutch and Power are included in the squad. Palace, who have drawn all their four games, should be able to call on Bright, who was concussed in midweek, but Salako remains doubtful while the unlucky Shaw, out with a fractured cheekbone, is replaced by Sinnott.

Everton v Wimbledon

Everton, enjoying a better run of the ball this season, could go top for the first time in three years if results elsewhere go for them. Warycha returns from international duty to help keep

Everton and Wimbledon poles apart. Rideout must test a heel injury. Wimbledon are still without Fashanu (ankle) and Scales (calf) but have Joseph back.

Leeds v Liverpool

Leeds, grateful to get the Middlesbrough defeat out of their system at Tottenham's expense in midweek, will have been further relieved to hear that the strike McAllister turned in training is not serious. Dongo makes his 300th league appearance. Liverpool, who are contemplating making one of two changes, can ill-afford to be without Nicol (hamstring) and Thomas (ankle).

Man City v Oldham

With the 3-1 defeat of Norwich, City suggested that their might start living up to pre-season optimism. Cotton has an Achilles

tendon injury but should be fit while Hill, who has recovered from a calf problem, cannot find a way back. It threatens to be an uncomfortable derby for Oldham, who are without Henry, who limped an ankle at Highbury. Olney, Fleming or Palmer will compete for the vacant place.

Nottm For v Man Utd

Forest, still reeling possibly from their mauling by Oldham, will be pleased that United have yet to show similar fire power starts his first game in a two-month trial with Forest in place of the departed Sheringham. United keep faith in the players who gained them their first Premier League win at Southampton, which means that Dublin stays in and Kanchelskis, Webb and Blackmore stay out.

Sheff Utd v Aston Villa

Despite two defeats away from home, United are enjoying their best start since returning to the top flight. Gannon returns but Gage is doubtful at full back. Their poor defensive record — eight goals conceded — is likely to be less seriously examined by a Villa side who will be without Daley for a fortnight due to a knee injury and Yorkie. Regis has recovered, however.

Soton v Middlesbrough

In racing parlance, Southampton could be said to be about eight lengths inferior to Middlesbrough. Taking a line through Tottenham, Tottenham for Saints, football rarely works out that way. Le Tissier returns and Groves makes his debut. Cockerill is indisposed with a calf injury. Speedie is doubtful and Benati suspended.

Wood and Dodd are poised to return. Wilkinson, who scored twice for Middlesbrough against Leeds, has recovered from an ankle injury.

Tomorrow

Ipswich v Tottenham

Having taken a point each off Manchester United and Liverpool in the past seven days, Tottenham should present no cause for alarm to an Ipswich side settling down well to life back at the top. Ipswich expect to be unchanged. Tottenham happily not so. Sheringham makes his debut after his £2.1 million move from Nottingham Forest. While Mabbitt is still not fit to return, at least Cundy looks like making a quick recovery. Thorstvedt and Walker vie for the goalkeeper's jersey. □ Compiled by Clive White

CRICKET

Liyanage slows Australian progress

Colombo: Dulip Liyanage, the Sri Lanka pace bowler, claimed three Australian wickets — the first with his third delivery — in an impressive Test match debut yesterday.

Liyanage ended the first day of the second Test with three for 61 after Australia, put in to bat, recovered from 72 for four to 177 for five. Dean Jones,

who was missed by Roshan Mahanama at second slip when he had scored one, drove fluently on both sides of the wicket for an unbeaten 77.

Early-morning rain cut 12 overs off the first session, in which Liyanage had Tom Moody caught behind off an outswinger in the second over. Mark Taylor was out just

before lunch for 15 to a bat-pad catch by Sanath Jayasuriya off Chandika Hathurusinghe, making Australia 35 for two at the break.

David Boon and Mark Waugh both were caught by Jayasuriya in the bat-pad position. Boon was Liyanage's second victim, while Waugh fell to Champaka

Ramanayake, the pace bowler. Rain which caused an early tea cost a further 12 overs, and on the resumption Allan Border was bowled by Liyanage for 15. Australia, who lead 1-0 in the three-Test series, were then 109 for five.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings
1 M A Taylor c Jayasuriya b Liyanage 1
2 M A Border c Waugh b Liyanage 15
3 D Boon c Jayasuriya b Liyanage 15
4 M Waugh c Liyanage b Ramanayake 0
5 A R Border b Liyanage 13
6 M L Hayden not out 25
Extras 10 b, 10 w, 2 nb 41
Total (8 wickets) 177
11 A Healy, A I C Dooden, C McDermott and M Whitney.
PAK OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-34, 3-69, 4-72, 5-109

BOWLING: Ramanayake 19-7-44-1; Liyanage 22-9-51-3; Hathurusinghe 31-9-61-7; Gurusinha 31-9-50-4; Arundel 6-0-12-0; Muralidharan 4-0-0-0.

SRI LANKA: A Ramanayake, R S Mahanama, C Hathurusinghe, A P Gunathilake, P de Silva, S T Jayasuriya, R Kalutharama, H C P Ramanayake, D Liyanage, A D Arundel and M Muralidharan.

□ Madras: The Indian cricket board has agreed to a South African proposal to use television replays to determine close decisions during their Test matches in October. A third umpire will review replays of stumpings, run-outs and hit-wicket decisions if asked by the two umpires on the field. (Reuters)

HOCKEY

Spaniards kill hopes with penalty strokes

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ENGLAND'S hopes of reaching the European junior championship final were dashed yesterday at Vught in Holland when they lost on penalty strokes to Spain after the scores were tied at 2-2 (Sydney Friskin writes). There was no extra time.

Having been in the lead twice, England were finally thwarted by Arnau, a member of the senior Spanish side, who levelled the score in the 43rd minute. Humphrey and Nicklin had earlier scored for England in the 13th and 27th minutes and Ventallo for Spain who equalised a minute after Humphrey's goal.

The penalty stroke shoot-out began with a setback for England with Nicklin failing to score. After that the Spaniards put all their strokes past Mason in the England goal to emerge 5-4 winners. Successful conversions for England were made by Cope, Woods, Wyatt and Giles.

England can take third place today if they beat

Germany, who lost 2-1 to Holland in the second semi-final. Germany were winners in their last three meetings.

Scotland and Wales will play-off today for fifth place. Scotland beat Czechoslovakia yesterday 4-3 with Milne and Freeland, each scoring twice. Wales defeated Switzerland 2-1 with goals by Walid Abdo and Zac Jones after Switzerland had taken the lead.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: England 2, Spain 0; Sweden 3-4 on penalty strokes; Holland 1, Germany 1. Play-offs (from top to bottom): 1, Czechoslovakia 3, 2, Scotland 1, 3, Wales 1, 4, Scotland 1, 5, Scotland 1.

Delhi: India and Pakistan are proposing to resume the tradition of playing hockey "Tests" to try to end European domination of the game. Pakistan broke off the meetings in 1988 and delicate, diplomatic manoeuvrings will be called for before both governments approve. A neutral ground, in Abu Dhabi, would first be used. At Barcelona, India, eight times Olympic champions, were seventh. Pakistan won the bronze medal. (AFP)

BOWLS

Whitehead holds off Overton's challenge

By DAVID RHYS JONES

LYNNE Whitehead, from Norwich, reversed the result of last year's English Bowling Federation (EBF) national junior singles final when she beat Debbie Overton, 22, from Brigg Town, 21-15, at Skegness yesterday.

Last month, she had partnered her mother, Brenda, to the quarter-final of the English Women's Bowling Association (EWBA) pairs at Leamington, and, as soon as the final was over yesterday, the Whitehead family headed for Llandrindod Wells, where Lynne will be playing for England in the under-25 international series today.

When Whitehead, 19, arrived at Skegness, she was unsure whether she would be allowed to compete, because the final was scheduled for today. "I'm just grateful to the EBF — and to Debbie — for agreeing to bring the final forward," Whitehead said. "And to the EWBA for allowing me to arrive late for the series in Wales."

Whitehead, who led 10-5 after 11 ends, held a firm grip on the final — until the last four ends. Leading 20-11, she found the last shot difficult to find, as Overton, showing a gritty determination, saved game on at least three occasions, and closed to 20-15.

On the 27th end, Overton was on target with her final bowl, but caught Whitehead's shot a glancing blow and left the position unchanged.

The most exciting semi-final of the day featured Jamie Reynolds, aged 14, of Peterborough and David Bolt, who is 13, of Sunderland. Reynolds, a stylish left-hander, led 18-11, but Bolt lengthened the jack and clawed his way back to 20-19. A single to Reynolds, whose mother, Pat, qualified for today's women's pairs final, raised the days loudest cheer.

Either Hind, of Birtley, led Meg Fisher, of Warboys White Hart, 19-9, but trailed 19-20 after 22 ends before winning with a double.

Pakistanis claim vindication

ICC washes its hands over ball controversy

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CLINGING desperately to the narrow philosophy of least said soonest mended, the International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday declared that details of the issue which has been gripping the cricket world all week are not fit for public consumption.

Five days after they could, and should, have headed off all repercussions with a simple explanation of why the ball was changed in the one-day international at Lord's on Sunday, the ICC issued a three-sentence statement of breathtaking arrogance.

It-Col John Stephenson, the secretary, finally cleared his office of solicitors long enough to reach the fax machine and release the words of the game has awaited with rising impatience. He then showed a fine sense of judgment by immediately leaving Lord's for a short holiday.

The non-statement reads: "I have decided not to make any further statement concerning the change of ball during the lunch interval at Lord's on Sunday. Unhappy reports are, and always have been, treated as strictly confidential and after careful consideration I have concluded that the same should apply to the match referee's report. The umpire's decision is final, therefore so

far as the ICC is concerned the matter is closed."

The ICC may have washed its hands of the controversy but it will not find many to share its cosy view. The Pakistanis believe they have been vindicated and an immediate statement from Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, alleging "sneers, innuendo and untruths", confirmed that they will be proceeding with legal action on several fronts.

This morning, the touring side leaves England and, for a team which has produced some scintillating cricket and won a Test series entirely on merit, it is the greatest pity that many in the game will be relieved to see the back of them.

For the players of this country, it is neither enlightening nor offensive if the Pakistanis have tampered with a cricket ball, for there are few players who would put hand on heart and say they have never broken the laws in a similar or related way. What have caused increasing annoyance are the Pakistani protestations of angelic behaviour and their willingness to drag the game into murky legal alleyways.

There was no comment yesterday from the Test and County Cricket Board but it was not inactive. Alan Smith,

the chief executive, was busy on the fax machine, too, instructing every player and umpire that their contracts prohibit them from speaking to the press — all part of a comprehensive cover-up, of course, but about as useful as a motorist insuring his car the day after he has crashed it. Too much has already been written and spoken about the events in the pavilion on Sunday for anyone to be remotely deflected by a series of "no comments".

Unforgivably, the ICC has handed over the high ground in this sorry saga to the solicitors who have harassed and nipped at all week. Equally unforgivably, Pakistan have abused their membership of the ICC by applying such blatant legal pressure to the constitution and proper running of the body.

It has been a shameful week for cricket, from which nobody involved has emerged well. We are now asked to believe that we shall never know the true facts of the controversy, but there is actually no possible doubt as to what occurred.

I understand that the umpires, Ken Palmer and John Hampshire, went to the England dressing-room during the fateful lunch interval and reported to the captain, Graham Gooch, that the ball had been changed because they considered it had been tampered with. Pakistan's officials had already been apprised of this in the referee's room.

The position of the umpires is not a comfortable one, for the long silence and subsequent lack of clarification has implicitly cast doubt on the validity or correctness of their actions. For this, Deryck Murray, the ICC match referee, must be held entirely responsible. Having decided to make public that the ball change had occurred, it was his duty to protect and support the umpires by explaining why.

The delay has been directly responsible for the embarrassing conclusion to the affair. Lawyers acting for the Pakistanis seized on a technicality of the issue, believed to relate to the condition of the ball issued as a substitute.

The playing conditions for the summer, at variance with the laws of cricket, state that it should have been of "much inferior condition" to the original. If it was not, mistakenly or otherwise, the claim could have been made that law 5, relating to the ball being damaged by natural causes, must have been the one implemented.

The ball at the centre of the argument, meanwhile, is under lock and key at Lord's, where it will apparently stay, away from prying eyes, unless it is necessary to produce it as Exhibit A in any subsequent court case.

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Hottot's glimpse, page 30
Simon Barnes, page 30



Pause for thought: Ayrton Senna, above, had plenty to ponder at the Spa Francorchamps circuit yesterday. He finished second in qualifying for the Belgian Formula One grand prix, being held tomorrow, two seconds behind Nigel Mansell and a second ahead of Mansell's team-mate, Riccardo Patrese, announced he was withdrawing his intentions to drive for Williams-Renault and even had time to show another side of his persona. Erik Comas, the French driver, had spun his Ligier-Renault off the track and hit a crash barrier. Senna, who was following, saw Comas

slumped to his seat, apparently hurt and unconscious. The Brazilian stopped immediately and ran back up the track to help. He did so at great personal risk, with cars roaring by and debris littered over the circuit, and showed courage, risking serious injury. It transpired that Comas was badly concussed and he was later released from hospital. Senna's decision to abandon his move to drive for Williams opens the way for Mansell and Alain Prost to fill the team's two positions.

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Sheringham seeks goal in Spurs debut

By CLIVE WHITE

TEDDY Sheringham breezed into Tottenham Hotspur football club yesterday like the breath of fresh air it so desperately needs following its dismal start to the season. The former Millwall favourite declared that his aim was to make an impact straight away by scoring on his debut against Ipswich Town in the BSL's live match at Portman Road tomorrow.

Sheringham professed to be unconcerned about the size of his £2.1 million transfer from Nottingham Forest, which was completed, after much toing and froing between the clubs, when he signed a four-year contract before the noon deadline yesterday. "It is not much more than what Forest paid for me last year — in any case, the transfer market has gone a bit crazy, with almost every player costing £2 million or more."

While the signing of a goalscorer would not appear to be the answer to Tottenham's perennial problem in central defence, as amplified by Leeds United's thumping 5-0 win over them in midweek, it should, nevertheless, give a boost to a side still looking for their first win.

"I'm aiming to get a goal on my debut because it's been a long two or three weeks since the transfer was mentioned," he said. "It's a great move for me, though to be fair I was never desperate to get back to London."

Sheringham described his first training session with Tottenham as a "great shock". "That is the most training I have done in 18 months," he said. "At Forest they just believed in rest."

A draw tomorrow may be as much as Sheringham and

company can hope for against an unbeaten side which has held its own against Manchester United and Liverpool in consecutive games.

Further brighter news for Tottenham was that Cundy, who injured an ankle at Elland Road, will be fit. Seidley retains his place in midfield, with Howells absent due to a broken foot. A late decision will be made on whether Thorstvedt or Walker keeps goal.

Doug Livermore, the Tottenham coach, is not dismayed. "We have played only direct sides so far, so we are looking forward to playing against a footballing side, which is what Ipswich are."

A team coached by John Lyall could be nothing but, though since promotion was achieved the former West Ham manager has moved up to general manager, with Mick McGivern taking over team duties. He could not have wished for a much smoother start from a side which has few names immediately recognisable to the public, other than that of Wark.

At 35, Warkis enjoying his third spell with the club and provides the last link with his halcyon days.

McGivern said that he was unaware how "onerous" were the responsibilities of the team manager.

"I've been very pleased with the players' attitude and honesty," he said. "I'm also very fortunate to have worked under such magnificent teachers — Alan Brown at Sunderland and Ron Greenwood and John Lyall at West Ham; all of them not only diligent and intelligent men but people who cared about other people."

Drop-off in gates alarms Arsenal

By CLIVE WHITE

TOO much television exposure in the Premier League could cost clubs dearly, George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said yesterday. All-ticket restrictions had also hit his own club, which had fallen short of its reduced capacity of 29,000 over its two home games to date.

The police have insisted on an all-ticket restriction at Highbury games while the North Bank is being redeveloped. "We are very concerned about the gate figures, especially after getting a good result at Liverpool last Sunday," Graham said. "If we continue to average gates of around 22,000 we will lose a lot of money."

Arsenal's opening match of the season against Norwich City attracted a crowd of 24,030 and only 20,795 attended the game against Oldham Athletic on Wednesday. Arsenal have budgeted for an average attendance of 26,000.

"Not everyone can get to the ground to buy tickets," he said. "People are used to turning up and paying on the day of the match."

Graham also voiced his

concern over some of the new Premier League rules, namely, the 15-minute half-time break and the choice of green shirts for referees.

"I don't like a 15-minute break, and nor do the players. I think it is simply too long," he said. "You can say all there is to say in 10 minutes and end up talking for the sake of it."

On the question of the referee's new attire, he said that he had already had an occasion where his goalkeeper had had to change his jersey because it clashed with the referee's.

Kevin Ratcliffe, a former Wales captain, has been left out of Terry Yorath's 16-strong squad for the World Cup qualifying match against the Faroe Islands in Cardiff, on Wednesday, September 9. The Everton defender had won 58 caps since his debut against Czechoslovakia in 1981.

WALLES SQUAD: N Southall (Everton), A Williams (Birmingham), M Edwards (Wolves), P Bodin (Swindon), D Phillips (Preston), G Hargrett (Manchester United), E Young (Crystal Palace), K Serrano (Preston), M Alderson (Bristol City), G Speed (Leeds), M Tordella (Derby), B Home (Barnsley), M Hughes (Barnsley), N Elger (Manchester United), I Rush (Liverpool), D Saunders (Liverpool).

A fair-play pledge by West Indies

By PETER BALL

IF THE International Cricket Council (ICC) is indeed determined to stamp out interfering with the ball, as it says, it will have enthusiastic support from West Indies. "If it has been done, it should be stopped," Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, said at Scarborough yesterday.

"It is not fair for bowlers to get extra help by tampering with the ball," he said. "Rules are there to be obeyed, and they should be obeyed, even rules which you don't like."

In a week of equivocation against a background of legal considerations, Richardson's unequivocal commitment to fair play should resound through the game. While Imtiaz Alam, the Pakistan manager, yesterday rejected responsibility, saying it was up to the umpires and referee to stop illegal activity, Richardson insisted that he would be personally responsible for his team playing the game fairly.

"If I saw any of them tampering with the ball, I would take it very seriously, and make sure they did not do it," he said. "People have been picking the seam for many years, but I don't agree with that either."

"Cricket should be played very hard, but it should be played fairly. It should be equal for everybody, and be decided by your ability, your

knowledge and skill, not by unfair means."

With the ICC failing to clarify matters yesterday, the issue is unlikely to go away. Pakistan and West Indies meet three times this winter, in one-day tournaments in South Africa and Australia, followed by a Test series in the Caribbean.

"We will try to ignore what has been said here," Richardson said, "because we want to play positive cricket, and we're not going to go into the games with this in the back of our minds because it could affect our play. But a lot of eyes are going to be open and people are going to have to be very careful what they do."



Richardson: backing ICC

Postmen deliver for Paralympics

By ALIX RAMSAY

THE British Paralympic team left for Barcelona yesterday to put finishing touches to its preparations for the Games beginning on Thursday. The athletes were helped on their way by a £250,000 donation from the Royal Mail, money raised by the company's employees throughout the country.

In all, 206 British athletes will compete against representatives from 94 countries and the team has realistic hopes of bettering its tally of 179 medals won in Seoul in 1988.

Morale is high in the team. After many squad meetings and training weekends the disparate groups from the various sports and disability classifications have come to know and support each other.

One of the most experienced members of the team is Noel Thatcher, although he is only 26. "It's just starting to hit us now that we're on our way," he

said. With all the hype and attention around the Games, it's important to keep your feet on the ground and remember what you're here for."

A seasoned campaigner at the top level, Thatcher is helping the newcomers to adapt to the pressures met in international competition. "It's the simple things you can help them with most," he said. "Just advising them what it's like to sit in the call-room alongside your biggest rival before a race makes a difference."

Thatcher, together with Anthony Howard and Robert Matthews, will be aiming for a clean sweep in blind middle distance running. The three 1,500 metre finals are scheduled within 20 minutes of one another. "I was the only one who got it wrong in Seoul," Thatcher said. "We aim to get it right this time."

Disabled take a dim view

FOOTBALL supporters are, more or less by definition, loyal and long-suffering. Quadruple that for disabled supporters. A recent survey (On The Sidelines, commissioned by the Football Stadium Advisory Design Council) shows that even today, in a supposedly healthier climate, disabled supporters must arrive hours before kick-off, are denied the benefits of normal ticketing procedures, and often have a rotten view as well.

Building regulations passed in June this year insist that disabled people have access to all stores of any non-domestic building. That implies, when previous legislation is brought into account, that one per cent of any football stadium's entire capacity should now be given over to the disabled. For example, if you were to build a stadium that, like Liver-

pool's, originally had a capacity of 46,000, you must offer 460 seats to the disabled. Liverpool have a total of 17, though rebuilding continues. Positive note: Millwall, building their new stadium before the latest regulations, are going for a 20,000 capacity with 180 wheelchair places. Negative note: many clubs have a long way to go. This is a question, not merely of facilities, but of attitude.

Right to fight

I went to a marketing scam last night and an ice hockey match broke out. Yes, shock horror and surprise-surprise. North America's National Hockey League has made the revolutionary move not to ban fighting. At the summer meeting in Florida, team owners had the chance to grasp the nettle and make their sport sensible; instead they have come up with a "compromise". The spontaneous fight was the only thing I was trying to protect," said Pat Quinn, president of the Vancouver Canucks. The real point, of course, is that owners believe fights sell tickets.



SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Today is the biggest day in football's year: the day of the FA Cup preliminary round. Among the major features of the round are Stewart and Lloyd's Evesham, Burnham v Carey Island, Shortwood v Brockenhurst, Chidefold v

Newbury, Sholing v Bemerton Heath, and Torquay v Bideford. Mighty Redhill, the team I covered when I worked on local papers, have a visit from Boreham Wood: Wembley and destiny beckon.

Love hurts

"My wish is that we love one another." Don King, the boxing promoter who looks like a negative of Ludwig van Beethoven, said on his 61st birthday this week. "That we put aside hostility and divisiveness." He then went on to sue Razor Ruddock for \$35 million. Ruddock has allegedly walked out on a contract so he can meet Lennox Lewis in October. "I took the guy from the point of a loser," King said. "I can make losing winning."



Running scared

This column has always believed in the importance of going out for a regular run. But one should make sure that it is the horse that does the running. Foot-slogging types, with some reason on their side, tell me that horses are too high up, too unpredictable and too dangerous. But I learn that going out for a run can be one of the most hazardous pursuits of mankind. For example, 59 per cent of runners have been attacked by inanimate objects. A survey in Running magazine reveals that parked cars attack runners without provocation; others have suffered contempts with brick walls, branches, scaffolding and chainlink fencing. Still more runners have been assaulted by bus shelters, trees, park benches, litter bins and bollards.

I also learn that 61 per cent of runners have been attacked by dogs: 57 per cent have been harassed by non-runners, males as well as females; 39 per cent have tangled with moving cars and 19 per cent

with cyclists; and 44 per cent of runners have got lost when out on a run. Madness, this column says. Four legs good, two legs bad.

Noteworthy

Football's mission in the world of music passed another major milestone this week with the release of *Ooh Ah Cantona*, a hymn of praise to the eponymous Leeds forward, Eric, sung by a band called Oo La La. It includes words from Cantona himself, uttered at Leeds City Centre: "Why I love you I don't know why but I love you."

The men behind Oo La La are Charlie Stanforth and Eddie Stringer. "We were just inspired when we heard him talk to the crowd after we won the league," Stringer said. Apparently the record is selling well, at least in Leeds. Historical note: at the end of last season, Leeds were top of the charts in Japan with a remix of a song called *Marching On Together*, which was recorded by Billy Bremner, Allan Clarke and others of the Seventies side.